

1876.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GRAND CHAPTER

OF

Royal Arch Masons of Canada,

AT ITS

NINETEENTH ANNUAL CONVOCATION,

HELD IN THE

MASONIC HALL OF ROYAL ALBERT CHAPTER, CITY
OF MONTREAL,

On Wednesday, the 9th day of August, A. D. 1876, A. I. 5876,



ORDERED TO BE READ IN ALL CHAPTERS AND PRESERVED.

ADDRESS:—*L. H. Henderson, Belleville, Ont., Grand Z.*
Daniel Spry, Toronto, Ont., Grand Scribe E.

TORONTO:

Patterson's Steam Printing and Publishing House, 48 King St. East.
1876.

Grand Chapter of Canada.

PROCEEDINGS.

The Nineteenth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada was held in the Masonic Hall, of Royal Albert Chapter, in the City of Montreal, on Wednesday, the 9th day of August, A.D. 1876, A.I. 2406.

PRESENT.

M. E. Comp.	L. H. Henderson,	Grand Z.	} Grand Council.
R. " "	I. H. Stearns,	" H.	
" " "	C. H. Beard,	" J.	
	On the Throne.		
R. E. Comp.	R. P. Stephens,	Grand Scribe E.	
" " "	Thomas Sargant, as	" Scribe N.	
" " "	Jas. O'Connor, as	" Prin. Sojourner.	
" " "	David McLellan,	" Treasurer.	
" " "	Wm. Kerr,	" Registrar.	
V. " "	J. O'Donnell, as	" 1st. Asst. Sojourn'r	
" " "	I. Waterman, as	" 2nd " "	
" " "	F. R. Despard, as	" Sword Bearer.	
" " "	H. A. Baxter, as	" Standard Bearer.	
" " "	R. J. Hovenden, as	" Dir. of Ceremonies	
R. " "	J. B. Nixon,	" Organist.	
V. " "	D. Ross, as	" Pursuivant.	
" " "	H. A. Baxter,	" rowspan="3">} Stewards.	
" " "	C. H. Sorley,		
" " "	M. Gilbranson,		
" " "	Benj. Baker,	" Janitor.	

GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS.

R. E. Comp.	W. D. Hepburn,	Preston,	Wellington District.
" " "	Peter Begg,	Brighton,	Ontario "
" " "	Wm. Doctor,	Belleville,	P. Edward "

R. E. Comp.	W. M. Somerville,	Ottawa,	Central	District.
" "	Frank Edgar,	Montreal,	Montreal	"
" "	Dr. W. H. Wood,		Eastern Tp.	"

PAST GRAND OFFICERS.

M. E. Comp.	James Seymour,	P. G. Z.
" "	Samuel B. Harman,	P. G. Z.
" "	C. D. Macdonnell,	P. G. Z.
R. "	A. A. Stevenson,	P. G. H.
" "	W. H. Weller,	P. G. H.
" "	J. K. Kerr,	P. G. J.
" "	Henry Robertson,	P. G. J.
" "	Daniel Spry,	P. G. Sup't.
" "	Thomas Sargent,	P. G. Sup't.
" "	R. Hendry,	P. G. Sup't.
" "	Jas. O'Connor,	P. G. Sup't.
" "	W. Carey,	P. G. Sup't.
" "	Thomas C. Macnabb,	P. G. Sup't.
" "	Edson Kemp,	P. G. Sup't.
" "	John A. McKenzie,	P. G. Sup't.
" "	E. M. Copeland,	P. G. Sup't.
" "	Thos. Milton,	P. G. Sup't.
" "	Jas. B. Nixon,	P. G. S. N.
" "	Fred. J. Menet,	P. G. P. S.
" "	Alexander Servos,	P. G. Registrar.
V. "	A. G. Smyth,	P. G. S.
" "	W. Chatfield,	P. G. Purs't.
" "	J. O'Donnell,	P. G. Stand. Bear.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

M. E. Comp.	James Seymour,	of Indiana.
R. "	Henry Robertson,	of Dist. of Columbia.
" "	" "	of New York.
" "	" "	of Mississippi.
" "	David McLellan,	of Georgia.
" "	Daniel Spry,	of New Jersey.
" "	E. M. Copeland,	of Texas.
M. "	C. D. Macdonnell,	of South Carolina.
R. "	W. H. Weller,	of Wisconsin.
" "	Henry Macpherson,	of California.
" "	A. A. Stevenson,	of Massachusetts.
" "	I. H. Stearns,	of New Hampshire.

A Constitutional number of Chapters being in attendance, the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada, was opened in *Ample Form* at 12.30 o'clock p. m.

The Committee on Credentials of Representatives, reported the following as being present during the Sessions, viz. :—

No. 1. ANCIENT FRONTENAC CHAPETR, KINGSTON.

	E. Comp.	Geo. Creeggan,	Z.
M.	"	C. D. Macdonnell,	P. Z.
	"	J. A. Henderson,	P. Z.

No. 2. THE HIRAM CHAPTER, HAMILTON.

	E. Comp.	F. R. Despard,	Z.
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No. 3. ST. JOHN'S CHAPTER, LONDON.

	R. E. Comp.	James O'Connor,	Z.
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No. 4. CHAPTER OF ST. ANDREW AND ST. JOHN, TORONTO.

	M. E. Comp.	Samuel B. Harman,	P. Z.
	"	R. J. Hovenden,	Z.
R.	"	R. P. Stephens,	P. Z.
"	"	Fred. J. Menet,	P. Z.
"	"	J. K. Kerr,	P. G. J.

No. 5. ST. GEORGE'S CHAPTER, LONDON.

	E. Comp.	Isaac Waterman,	P. Z.
R.	"	W. Carey,	P. Z.
	"	James Moffatt,	P. Z.
V.	"	A. G. Smyth,	P. Z.
"	"	H. A. Baxter,	P. Z.

No. 6. ST. JOHN'S CHAPTER, HAMILTON.

	R. E. Comp.	D. McLellan,	P. Z.
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No. 7. MOIRA CHAPTER, BELLEVILLE.

	M. E. Comp.	L. H. Henderson,	P. Z.
R.	"	Wm. Doctor,	P. Z.

No. 8. KING SOLOMON'S CHAPTER, TORONTO.

	E. Comp.	J. G. Burns,	Z.
R.	"	" Daniel Spry,	P. Z.
	"	" G. Watson,	H.
R.	"	" Jas. B. Nixon,	P. Z.
"	"	" Thomas Sargent,	P. Z.
"	"	" Fred. J. Menet,	P. Z.
"	"	" David McLellan,	P. Z.
V.	"	" J. O'Donnell,	P. Z.
	"	" C. G. Fortier,	P. J.

No. 12. CATARAQUI CHAPTER, KINGSTON.

R. E. Comp.	R. Hendry,	Z.
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No. 14. PROVEST CHAPTER, DUNHAM.

R. E. Comp.	H. W. Wood,	P. Z.
"	" Stevens Baker,	Z.
R.	" Edson Kemp,	P. Z.

No. 15. WAWANOSH CHAPTER, SARNIA.

R. E. Comp.	John A. Mckenzie,	P. Z. Proxy.
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No 16. CARLETON CHAPTER, OTTAWA.

R. E. Comp.	Wm. Kerr,	Z.
R.	" W. M. Somerville,	P. Z.

No. 17. DORCHESTER CHAPTER, WATERLOO.

R. E. Comp.	Edson Kemp,	P. Z.
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No. 18. OXFORD CHAPTER, WOODSTOCK.

E. Comp.	A. W. Francis,	Z.
R.	" C. L. Beard,	P. Z.

No. 19. MOUNT MORIAH CHAPTER, ST. CATHARINES.

M. F. Comp.	James Seymour,	P. Z. Proxy.
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No. 21. CARNARVON CHAPTER, MONTREAL.

R. E. Comp.	A. A. Stevenson,	P. Z.
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"	"	"	I. H. Stearns,	Z.
"	"	"	J. T. McMinn,	P. Z.
R.	"	"	E. M. Copeland,	P. Z.

No. 23. EZRA CHAPTER, PRESCOTT.

E. Comp.	Robt. Rochester,	Z.
"	" J. Scott,	H.

No. 24. TECUMSETH CHAPTER, STRATFORD.

E. Comp.	Thos. Miller,	H.
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No. 25. MOUNT HOREB CHAPTER, MONTREAL.

R. E. Comp.	Thos. Milton,	P. Z.
"	" C. W. Woodford,	Z.
"	" Chas. Willis,	H.
"	" Jas. Martin, Jr.,	J.

No. 26. ST. MARK'S CHAPTER, TRENTON.

M. E. Comp.	C. D. Macdonnell,	P. Z.
R. "	" Peter Begg,	P. Z.

No. 27. MANITOU CHAPTER, COLLINGWOOD.

R. E. Comp.	Henry Robertson,	P. Z.
V. "	" Henry McPherson,	P. Z.

No. 28. PENTALPHA CHAPTER, OSHAWA.

E. Comp.	M. Gilbranson,	P. Z.
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No. 29. M'CALLUM CHAPTER, DUNVILLE.

E. Comp.	Fred. Clark,	Z.
M. "	" James Seymour,	P. Z.

No. 31. PRINCE EDWARD CHAPTER, PICTON.

R. E. Comp.	Donald Ross,	Z.
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No. 32. WATERLOO CHAPTER, GALT.

R. "	" W. D. Hepburn,	P. Z. Proxy.
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No. 35.

KEYSTONE CHAPTER, WHITBY.

E. Comp. T. Gibson,	P. Z.
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No. 36.

CORINTHIAN CHAPTER, PETERBOROUGH.

V. E. Comp. J. O'Donnell,	Z.
M. " " C. D. Macdonnell,	P. Z.
" " Vincent Clementi,	P. H.

No. 40.

GUELPH CHAPTER, GUELPH.

E. Comp. H. K Maitland,	Z.
R. " " W. D. Hepburn,	P. Z.

No. 41.

HARRIS CHAPTER, INGERSOLL.

V. E. Comp. C. H. Sorley,	P. Z.
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No. 42.

MONTREAL CHAPTER, MONTREAL.

E. Comp. John McLean,	H.
R. " " Thos. Milton,	P. Z.

No. 43.

ROYAL ALBERT CHAPTER, MONTREAL.

R. E. Comp. Frank Edgar,	P. Z.
" " " E. M. Copeland,	Z.
" " " Albert D. Nelson,	H.
R. " " I. H. Stearns,	P. Z.

No. 44.

MOUNT SINAI CHAPTER, NAPANEE.

R. E. Comp. Donald Ross,	P. Z.
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No. 45.

EXCELSIOR CHAPTER, COLBORNE.

R. E. Comp. Peter Begg,	P. Z.
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No. 46.

ST. JAMES CHAPTER, ST. MARY'S.

R. E. Comp. J. E. Harding,	P. Z.
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No. 47.

WELLINGTON CHAPTER, CHATHAM.

R. E. Comp. Thomas C. Macnabb,	P. Z.
M. " " James Seymour,	P. Z.

- No. 48. ST. JOHN'S CHAPTER, COBOURG.
R. E. Comp. W. H. Weller, P. Z.
- No. 51. ST. CHARLES' CHAPTER, POINT ST. CHARLES.
R. E. Comp. Thos. Milton, P. Z.
" " Alexander Murray, Z.
" " Geo. Crawford, H.
- No. 52. PRINCE RUPERT CHAPTER, MANITOBA.
R. E. Comp. James B. Nixon, Proxy.
- No. 54. DE WARRENNE CHAPTER, ST. THOMAS.
E. Comp. N. S. McCall, Z.
- No. 55. NIAGARA CHAPTER, NIAGARA.
M. E. Comp. Jas. Seymour, P. Z. Proxy.
- No. 56. GEORGIAN CHAPTER, OWEN SOUND.
E. Comp. Henry Macpherson, P. Z.
- No. 57. KING HIRAM CHAPTER, PORT COLBORNE.
M. E. Comp. Jas. Seymour, P. Z. Proxy.
- No. 58. PEMBROKE CHAPTER, PEMBROKE.
R. E. Comp. W. M. Somerville, P. Z. Proxy.
- No. 59. SUSSEX CHAPTER, BROCKVILLE.
E. Comp. V. H. Moore, P. Z.
- No. 60. DORIC CHAPTER, NEWMARKET.
R. E. Comp. Jas. B. Nixon, Proxy.
- No. 61. GRANITE CHAPTER, PERTH.
R. E. Comp. W. M. Somerville, P. Z. Proxy.
- No. 62. YORK CHAPTER, EGLINGTON.
R. E. Comp. Daniel Spry, P. Z. Proxy.

No. 64.

WILLSON CHAPTER, WELLAND.

M. E. Comp.	Jas. Seymour,	P. Z.
" "	" C. D. Macdonell,	P. Z.

No. 65.

ONTARIO CHAPTER, YORKVILLE.

R. E. Comp.	Fred. J. Menet,	P. Z.
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No. 68.

MAITLAND CHAPTER, MAITLAND.

R. E. Comp.	W. M. Somerville,	P. Z. Proxy.
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No. 69.

GRIMSBY CHAPTER, GRIMSBY.

R. E. Comp.	David McLellan,	P. Z. Proxy.
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No. 71.

PRINCE OF WALES CHAPTER, AMHERSTBURG.

E. Comp.	Jas. Corlis,	P. Z. Proxy.
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No. 72.

KEYSTONE CHAPTER, ST. THOMAS.

E. Comp.	J. Corlis,	Z.
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No. 73.

ERIE CHAPTER, PORT STANLEY.

E. Comp.	N. S. McCall,	Z.
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No. 74.

BEAVER CHAPTER, STRATHROY.

E. Comp.	Jas. Noble,	Z.
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No. 76.

MOUNT NEBO CHAPTER, DRUMMONDVILLE.

M. E. Comp.	Jas. Seymour,	P. Z.
" "	George J. Duncan,	J.

On motion the Report of the Committee on Credentials of Representatives was received and adopted.

The M. E. Grand Z. granted permission for the admission of all Royal Arch Masons, in good standing, during the session of the Grand Chapter, as visitors.

The proceedings of the Grand Convocation of Grand Chapter held at the City of St. Catharines, on Wednesday, the 9th day of October, A. D. 1875, having been printed,

and copies thereof sent to all Chapters under this jurisdiction, the recorded minutes thereof were considered as read, and the same were confirmed.

The M. E. Grand Z. then read the following address to the companions assembled in Annual Convocation.

ADDRESS.

*To the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of
Canada,*

GREETING :—

Companions, another year has passed away, and by a dispensation of Divine Providence we are once again permitted to assemble together in Annual Convocation to review the Proceed- of the past, and to determine upon such a course for the future as will be most conducive to the interests and welfare of our beloved order.

Before proceeding, however, with a summary of our doings for the past year, let me digress for a few moments for the purpose of paying a tribute of respect to the memory of one of our members, who the great I am has, in his infinite wisdom, called away from among us, to his eternal home; I allude to the death of the late R. Ex. Companion Aldis Bernard, which occurred on the 4th day of July last, at San Jose, in California, whither he had gone but a few weeks before hoping to recruit his health. His remains were brought to this city, and on the 15th ulto. were conveyed to their final resting place by a large concourse of sorrowing friends and distinguished Masons. For his distinguished services, and great zeal in the cause of Craft Masonry, the rank of Past Grand Master was conferred upon him by the Grand Lodge of Canada in 1860, and at the formation of that Grand Body he was elected to the high and honorable position of Deputy Grand Master, and by virtue of that office he occupied the position of Grand H. in the Grand Chapter in its early days. In his private life, the esteem and regard in which M. Ex. Companion Bernard was held in this city, where he for many years resided, is fully evidenced by his having been, on several occasions by his fellow

citizens, elevated to important positions of honor and trust, the duties of which were by his great ability, and earnest zeal, successfully accomplished, both with credit to himself and advantage to the city. But he is gone; we shall all miss his kind and cordial greeting; the place that knew him once shall know him no more forever.

I have to congratulate myself upon the comparatively small amount of work that has devolved upon me during the year that I have occupied my present position, and attribute it wholly to the prosperous and rapid strides Capitular Masonry is at present making within our jurisdiction.

It is also a matter of general congratulation that the bond of union in this particular branch of Free Masonry throughout the Province of Quebec, New Brunswick, Ontario, and Manitoba, is still quietly and carefully maintained, and preserved, and no desire is manifested to disturb or mar the harmony and good feeling so happily existing among us.

GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS OF DISTRICT.

You will no doubt be better advised of the prosperous condition of Royal Arch Masonry in this jurisdiction after hearing the reports of the several District Grand Superintendents, to which I direct your attention as many valuable statistics and much useful information will, no doubt, be furnished you in regard to the working of the order, which has not been brought under my immediate notice.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

The Annual Report on Foreign Correspondence will, as usual, be laid before you by our distinguished friend and R. Ex. Companion Henry Robertson, for your consideration. It will be found replete with much valuable and useful information, and will well repay a careful and attentive perusal. The ability and zeal at all times displayed by this talented Companion in performing this arduous duty, is deserving of the highest commendation, and I regret to say that the time and labor necessarily employed by him in pre-

paring and compiling this valuable record is not sufficiently appreciated by Grand Chapter.

FINANCE.

The Financial exhibit of Grand Chapter will, as usual, be laid before you for your consideration and approval, by R. Ex. Companion McLellan, Grand Treasurer, and which, with the statements furnished by R. Ex. Companion Stephens, Grand Scribe E., will enable Grand Chapter to see at a glance the steady and marked improvement in this department. As these statements will be submitted in detail, it is quite unnecessary for me to refer to them further than to express a hope that they may prove satisfactory to Grand Chapter.

While under this head I may be permitted to call the attention of Grand Chapter to the apparent negligence manifested by some few Subordinate Chapters in making their returns. It is highly important that these duties should be punctually attended to, in order that Grand Scribe E. should not be delayed in preparing and completing his annual statements. I would suggest that some more stringent method should be adopted by Grand Chapter to remedy this seemingly growing laxity.

In the month of February last an offer was made me of a Grand Z's regalia at what was considered a very low price, and by the advice of a number of the Executive Committee, I was induced to purchase it for the use of Grand Chapter, and for which I caused a cheque to be drawn on the Grand Treasurer for the sum of thirty-five dollars (\$35.00), and which action I trust this Grand Body will fully endorse.

DISPENSATIONS.

During the year a number of applications have been made to me for dispensations to open new Chapters, and when properly recommended by the several District Grand Superintendents, have been, after careful inquiry and mature consideration, granted, the names and localities are as follows :—

Grand River,	Waterloo.
Prince of Wales,	Amherstburgh.
Key Stone,	St. Thomas.

Erie,	Port Stanley.
Beaver,	Strathroy.
St. Clair,	Milton.
Mount Nebo,	Drummondville.

These several Chapters are, I am informed, regularly organized and in good working order, and I cheerfully recommend Grand Chapter to confirm the same and cause their several warrants to be issued in due course.

One other petition of a like nature has been received by me, from the City of Toronto, which, for good and sufficient reasons, I felt myself compelled to decline granting, leaving the petitioners to apply to Grand Chapter if so advised. This petition, together with other documents relating thereto, will be laid before the Executive Committee for their consideration.

A great number of applications have been made to me during the year for dispensations to instal Companions, who were otherwise ineligible, in the chairs of First and Second Principals, and on this point I may, perhaps, have acted over cautiously, having in many cases declined granting them, firmly believing that the hasty granting of such dispensations frequently tends to promote jealousy and ill feeling among the members of a Chapter, and is certainly opposed to the spirit of the Constitution of Grand Chapter. However, where I was fully convinced that the necessity of the case actually required it, I did, in some instances, accede to their request. I am not aware at the present moment whether the system of recording these applications for dispensations suggested by Most Ex. Companion Seymour at the last Convocation of Grand Chapter has been adopted, but I cordially agree with him as to the necessity of such a system being at once entered upon, as it would prove of great value as a book of reference.

Some time since I received a petition from a number of Companions in the Town of Sherbrooke asking a dispensation to re-organize Golden Rule Chapter, located in that Town (which I regret to say has not been working for some years), and also to enable them to elect officers for the current year, and at the same time requesting me to remit the payment of certain monies due Grand Chapter. As will be seen by the statement in the last

year's published Proceedings, no returns have been made by this Chapter since 1869, and the amount appearing to be due by them at that date was \$51.00, which they express their willingness to pay. I replied that I was willing to grant the dispensation asked for but that the power of remission of dues rested only with Grand Chapter, to which I suggested an application. In view of this appeal, I have deemed it my duty to lay this matter before you for such action as you may think proper.

REPRESENTATIVES.

During the year I received notice of the appointment of R. Ex. Companion I. H. Stearns, of Montreal, as Representative of the Grand Chapter of the State of New Hampshire near this Grand Body. I have to congratulate the R. Ex. Companion on his appointment to that dignified position, feeling sure that Grand Chapter will duly recognize the honor so deservedly merited. My immediate predecessor, M. Ex. Companion Seymour, having before retiring from office nominated M. Ex. Companion Kimball as our Representative near the Grand Chapter of the State of Massachusetts, I caused the necessary credentials to be forwarded to that most worthy Companion, who is now performing the duties.

Upon the proper recommendations being received, I appointed Most Ex. Companion A. H. Bartley, Past Grand H. P. of Mississippi, as our Representative near the Grand Chapter of that State, and the usual authority to assume the duties has been forwarded to him. I trust these two appointments will be confirmed by Grand Chapter.

AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION.

Your attention will, no doubt, be called to the following amendment to the Constitution, of which M. E. Companion Seymour, at last Convocation, gave notice:—"To make the R. E. Companion H. permanent Chairman of the Executive Committee,"

This is an amendment greatly to be desired, and I have no doubt will be adopted by Grand Chapter.

SISTER GRAND BODIES.

On assuming my official duties in August last, I found that the slight interruptions that had occurred some two years before in our friendly relations with the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia had not been removed, and feeling how desirable it was that those complications should be cleared up as speedily as possible, and friendly intercourse re-established, I caused the following communication to be addressed to the Grand Secretary of that Grand Body by Grand Scribe E. :—

GRAND CHAPTER OF CANADA,

OFFICE OF THE GRAND SCRIBE E.

Toronto, Ont., 1st Nov., 1875.

DEAR SIR AND R. EX. COMPANION :—

I am directed by M. Ex. Comp. Henderson, who has succeeded M. Ex. Comp. Seymour as Grand Z. of this Grand Chapter, to again address you with reference to the personal relations subsisting between our Representative, R. E. Companion Mason, on the one side, and M. Ex. Companion Larner, G. H. P., and your Grand Chapter on the other. I do this in order to remove any possible grounds of misapprehension as to our position in the matter. The Grand Z. desires it to be distinctly understood that neither himself, nor his predecessor in office, nor this Grand Chapter presumes to dictate to the G. H. P. or to your Grand Chapter as to their course of action, or assumes to sit in judgment on the matters in difference. The Grand Z. fully recognizes the necessity that a Grand Representative, being invested with ambassadorial functions, should, in order to accomplish the objects of his mission, be in perfect accord with those by whom he is sent and those to whom he is accredited, and that whether he is in the right or the wrong in a matter of difference, is a question of minor importance, and one of which he can not constitute himself the judge.

That this is also the view of the Grand Chapter you will see by reference to our Proceeding of last year, page 458, copies of which I sent you. The difficulty in which the Grand Z. finds himself placed is, that he is asked to revoke an act of one of his prede-

cessors by canceling the credentials of a Representative who has been received and acknowledged as such by the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, without any request from the Grand Body to which he has been accredited, and by which he has been formally recognized. So far as the Grand Z. is aware, no action was taken on the subject at the last Annual Convocation of your Grand Chapter.

Will you be good enough to submit this communication to the M. Ex. G. H. P. with the request that if any action is to be taken on the subject by the Grand Chapter at its approaching Annual Convocation this letter may be submitted with the other correspondence in the matter.

I have the honour to remain,

Dear Sir and R. Ex. Companion,

Yours truly and fraternally,

(Signed) R. P. STEPHENS,

Grand Scribe E.

To this communication no reply was received, but from other sources I received information which led me to hope that the cause of the difficulty had been removed, and that no further action on our part was necessary in the matter. A few weeks ago, however, my attention was called to the report on Foreign Correspondence, published in the printed proceedings of the Grand Chapter of that District for the year 1875, which upon examination I found commented rather severely on the course that this Grand Chapter had taken, as also that of its executive officers in regard to this matter, and called for explanation. I therefore directed Grand Scribe E. to address their Grand Secretary the following note :

TORONTO, July 22nd, 1876.

DEAR SIR AND R. EX. COMPANION :—

The M. Ex. the Grand Z., having had his attention called to the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence, adopted by the Grand Chapter of the D. of C. at its last Annual Convocation, and published on pages 166 to 168 of your proceedings for 1875,

has directed me to assure you and through you your M. Ex. G. H. P. and Grand Chapter, that there has been no *intentional* discourtesy or want of respect in the course taken by his predecessor in office in this matter, or in the correspondence relating thereto, and he is himself extremely anxious that all cause of misunderstanding should be removed. The only reason the Grand Z. has taken no step since the date of my letter to you of the 1st Nov. last, is that very shortly after the Convocation of your Grand Chapter in that month he was informed that M. Ex. Companion Clark, who was not unfriendly to Companion Mason, had been elected G. H. P. in place of M. Ex. Companion Larner, and as the difficulty was purely a personal one between those two Companions, and no answer to my letter of the 1st Nov. was sent, or any intimation that your Grand Chapter or the M. Ex. G. H. P. still desired a change of Representatives, the Grand Z. supposed and hoped that under the altered circumstances the difficulty was at an end, and no further action was necessary. Any intimation from him to the contrary, in reply to my letter, would have received immediate attention. As the report above alluded to contains nothing to indicate whether it is still the desire that Companion Mason's commission should be cancelled, but merely expresses the opinion that it ought to have been done when first requested by M. Ex. Companion Larner, and as some intimation of the kind seems to be necessary under the altered circumstances of the case, caused by the changes in the executive of your Grand Chapter (we have personally no cause of complaint against, or dissatisfaction with R. Ex. Companion Mason,) I shall feel obliged by your submitting this letter to the M. Ex. G. H. P., and communicating to me his wishes at your earliest possibly convenience.

Believe me to remain,

Dear Sir and R. Ex. Companion,

Yours truly and fraternally,

(Signed) R. P. STEPHENS,

Grand Scribe E.

L. G. STEPHENS, ESQ.,

Grand Sec'y Grand Chapter, D. of C.,

Washington, U. S.

I had hoped to have received a reply to this communication before the close of this Convocation, and that I should have been able to announce to you that these unpleasant difficulties had been amicably arranged, but up to the present moment no reply has been received.

I have to inform you that the Special Committee appointed at the last Convocation of Grand Chapter, to procure and present to M. Ex. Companions Harman, Macdonnell, and Seymour, each with a past Grand Z's jewel, to mark their appreciation of the distinguished services rendered to Grand Chapter by those Most Ex. Companions, have performed their duty; the presentation having been made by R. Ex. Companion Spry, Chairman of the Committee, whose known ability well fitted him for that pleasing duty.

On the 24th ult., I received an official communication from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Canada, notifying me of the expulsion by that Grand Body of a number of Masons for causes set forth in the address of the Grand Master, and further, that such notification was sent to me with the view of my taking such action against such of the number as were Royal Arch Masons, as I might deem just and reasonable in the premises. It will be quite unnecessary for me to recapitulate the causes which have led to this most painful result, as, doubtless, all are fully cognizant of the facts. The perverse conduct these misguided persons have chosen to adopt, both before and since their expulsion, shows an utter abandonment of Masonic principles, is entirely subversive of all Masonic authority, and must call forth the condemnation of every loyal and true hearted Mason. Under these circumstances, and believing that the welfare and prosperity of our beloved order requires that some prompt and decided action should be taken in regard to those of the offending members who are Royal Arch Masons, I have decided to bring the subject at once under the notice of Grand Chapter, and to avoid unnecessary delay, I instructed Grand Scribe E. to summon those Companions who are Royal Arch Masons to appear before this Convocation to show cause why they should not be dealt with in the matter as Grand Chapter in its wisdom may deem just and

proper. I now leave the matter in your hands, feeling confident that the result of your deliberations in connection with this unfortunate subject (whatever they may be,) will tend to the maintenance of the dignity of Grand Chapter, and in preserving peace and harmony within our ranks.

Companions, when you did me the honor last year to elect me to this most honorable position, it was not without a good deal of trepidation that I assumed the task, feeling, as I did, my inability to successfully cope with many of the more important matters connected with the welfare of the order that might arise during the year; but duly appreciating the kind offers of advice and assistance of some of my predecessors, and relying upon the kind co-operation of my Companions, I entered upon the duties, fully determined to sacredly guard the trust reposed in me, and to devote my best energies in promoting the welfare of our order. If my humble efforts in this respect are even partially achieved, I am more than satisfied, and can return the sceptre into your hands with the fervent hope that my labors have not been altogether in vain.

In conclusion, I desire to express my warmest thanks to M. Ex. Companions Seymour and Harman for their kind and valuable advice so cheerfully given, and to the other Grand Officers for their prompt and earnest attention at all times bestowed upon all matters coming under their notice; and may the Most High in His loving kindness and mercy pour down upon us His blessing, and so direct and guide all our deliberations that they may tend to the promotion of His glory, and to the securing of our future and eternal happiness.

L. H. HENDERSON,

Grand Z.

It was moved by R. E. Comp. I. H. Stearns, seconded by R. E. Comp. F. J. Menet, and resolved:—

That the address of the M. E. Grand Z. be referred to the Executive Committee to report thereon during the present session of Grand Chapter.

The reports of the various Grand Superintendents of

Districts were received, and, on motion of R. E. Comp. I. H. Stearns, seconded by R. Ex. Comp. D. Ross, referred to the Executive Committee, and are as follows :—

LONDON DISTRICT

To the Most Excellent Grand Z., Grand Principals, Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada ;

In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution, it becomes my duty to present a report on the condition of Royal Arch Masonry in the London District.

When elected to the office, although then in very ill health, I fully intended to visit every Chapter in the District, this intention, however, I have not been able to carry out owing to my continued ill health and sickness, and bereavements in my family ; those Chapters I have not visited will, I hope, for these reasons, kindly accept my apologies.

I received four applications for new Chapters during my year of office, viz :—Key-stone, to be located in St. Thomas ; Prince of Wales, in Amherstburg ; Erie, in Port Stanley, and Beaver, in Strathroy. I recommended the applications for Key-stone, Prince of Wales, and Beaver, for which dispensations were granted by the M. E. the G. Z. In the case of Erie, of Port Stanley, I could not conscientiously recommend, as I considered that St. Thomas being but a few miles therefrom, and two Chapters being located in that town, that there would naturally arise in the future a conflict of interests. I, however, forwarded the application to M. E. the G. Z., who was pleased at that time to refuse to grant a dispensation, subsequently the dispensation was granted, and the officers therefor installed by Ex. Comp. James O'Connor, of London ; I have not been able to visit this Chapter since opening, therefore am unable to say how they are doing. Assisted by a number of leading Companions of London city, I installed the officers of Key-stone and Prince of Wales, and from reports made to me as to their working and the energy and efficiency of their officers, have no hesitation in recommending that their warrants be granted to them. The same Companions from London kindly

came to assist me in installing the officers of Beaver Chapter, which Chapter I have since visited accompanied by the Principals of Bruce Chapter, and must say that the working of the officers of Beaver, in the Royal Arch Degree, far exceeded my expectations, and would have done credit to the officers of any of our older Chapters, I would therefore recommend that their warrant be granted to them. The older Chapters of the District are in a very satisfactory state, and must continue to be so while those of London city are under the supervision and fostering care of such zealous Companions as Past Superintendents O'Connor and Cary, assisted by Companions Baxter, Waterman, and Lewis—the Companions of Chatham, under the care of Past Superintendent McNab—and those of Sarnia under that of Past Superintendent Mackenzie; while the Companions of Bruce, in Petrolia, are stimulated to greater energy by the kind supervision of Ex. Companions Trotter and McGarvey.

I regret very much to have to refer to the number of Companions of St. George's and St. John's Chapters who have been suspended during the year, for their participation in the proceedings in the so-called Grand Lodge of Ontario; and although the trouble with these erring brethren did not originate in the Chapter, still, I consider that we are in all our affairs so intimately connected with the Grand Lodge of Canada, that we must to a great extent be injured by the action of these our former brethren and Companions, unless Grand Chapter adopt some wise but firm policy to remove the evil.

During the year there were 89 applications from candidates to the different Chapters in the District, (De Warrene and Erie not heard from) of whom 77 were accepted; most of the rejected applications were in the Chapters under dispensation, showing that they are not in too much of a hurry admitting members to increase their funds.

In concluding this report, I have to thank the officers and companions of the Chapter in this District for their kindness and courtesy shown me on all occasions of our meeting during my term of office, and must more especially thank the officers of St.

George's and St. John's for kind assistance whenever I called upon them for it.

All of which is most fraternally submitted.

GEO. E. MURPHEY,
Grand Sup't London District.

PETROLIA, August 2nd, 1876.

WILSON DISTRICT.

To the M. E. Council, Officers, and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada :

In making my first annual Report to the Grand Chapter, of the condition of Capitular Masonry in the Wilson District, I have much pleasure in stating that with one exception the Chapters are in a flourishing condition. There are four Chapters in the District, three of which I have visited during the year, and whose officers I have installed, and I feel satisfied that the Companions have made careful selections in their officers.

No complaints have been reported to me during the year.

Very few deaths have been reported to me.

I have to express my thanks for the cordial and true masonic kindness which I have received in my visitations from the companions.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

CHAUNCEY BENNETT,
Grand Sup't Wilson District.

PORT ROWAN, August 4th, 1876.

HURON DISTRICT.

To the Most Excellent Grand Z., Grand Principals and Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada :

I have pleasure in reporting that with one exception the Chapters in this District are working well ; the Chapter I refer to is St. James, No. 46, St. Mary's, in which no work has been done for over a year. I can give no reason for this, nor can the First

Principal ; there is a first class lodge at St. Mary's, and plenty of good material for the Chapter. I expected to have paid St. Mary's a visit last month but was prevented from doing so, but I promise my esteemed Companions of the stone town that I will be on hand ere long, and will do my best to assist them in getting matters in a better position.

During the year I installed the officers of Havelock, No. 63, Huron, No. 30, and Seaforth, No. 66 ; the two younger Chapters have had many difficulties to contend with, but I believe they have over-come them, and that they will both prove creditable additions to our register.

I regret that my official duties will prevent me attending Grand Chapter, a pleasure which I have for a long time been anticipating.

Respectfully submitted.

ISAAC F. TOMS,

Grand Sup't Huron District.

GODERICH, August 4th, 1876.

HAMILTON DISTRICT.

*To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., the Grand Council, Officers,
and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons
of Canada :*

I have again the honor to submit a Report of my stewardship, as Superintendent of the Hamilton District, for the capitular year now near its close.

No complaints have been brought to my notice, therefore I feel great pleasure in testifying to the continued harmony prevalent in every Chapter throughout the District.

My official visits have not been so general as last year ; but I am well advised that any omission in that respect on my part, has not interfered with the earnest zeal heretofore shown by the attentive officers who have the government of the several chapters in charge.

Early in October I installed the officers of Mount Moriah

Chapter, No. 19, St. Catharines, and during the same month I performed a similar duty in Wilson Chapter, No. 64, Welland, on which occasion I was accompanied by the M. Ex. Companion Seymour, P.G. Z., who dedicated the Chapter in a most impressive manner. In February, accompanied by the same distinguished M. E. Companion, I visited King Hiram Chapter, No. 57, Port Colborne, when I was much gratified at the thoroughly efficient manner in which every officer acquitted himself in conducting the beautiful ceremony of exaltation, at the close of which the P.G.Z. also dedicated this flourishing Chapter, and paid a deserved tribute to the marked efficiency of the officers and companions, in discharging the responsible duties devolving upon them. This Chapter is very tastefully furnished, all its paraphernalia being of the best quality and design, and I am glad to add it is out of debt.

None regret more than myself the non-visitation of Hiram and St. John's Chapter, Hamilton, in both of which the true spirit of the Royal Craft exists, and well-skilled officers continue to add lustre to the laurels already won, for their correct exemplifications of our mysteries.

From McCallum Chapter, Dunnville, Niagara Chapter, Niagara, and Grimsby Chapter, Grimsby, excellent accounts reach me, showing in each steady progress, and the addition of good material that will do them no discredit—the ballot-box being carefully guarded in the selections made.

Petitions for two new chapters have been submitted for my approval since our last Annual Convocation, the first from Milton, called "St. Clair Chapter," and the second from Drummondville called "Mount Nebo Chapter." In both cases, careful enquiry satisfied me that the neighborhoods chosen were certain to furnish ample material to support healthy chapters, and that the petitioners were earnest lovers of the Royal Art, in whose hands dispensations could be placed with every confidence. I therefore recommended both petitions to the M. E. the G. Z., who was pleased to grant the authority sought.

Having to leave for Europe before the Companions were ready for organization, I confided the duty of constituting St. Clair

Chapter to R. E. Companion Brierly, P. P. Soj., and that of Mount Nebo Chapter to M. E. Companion Seymour, P. G. Z., both of whom will, no doubt, report the completion of the trust to your entire satisfaction.

Regarding the notice of motion given last year by V. E. Comp. Black, to separate the Hamilton and Niagara Districts, as now united for chapter supervision, and make them two distinct district, comprising the same territory now presided over by the D. D. G. M's. for symbolic purposes. I find the feeling of the Chapters, as reported to me, to be strongly in favor of the change ; the impression being that better supervision will result, and the interests of Royal Arch Masonry be thereby greatly promoted. Concurring in this view, I would recommend that effect be given to the motion in the sense stated.

I much regret that I cannot return in time to attend Grand Chapter, which is a great deprivation ; but as business engagements compel my absence, I must forego the pleasure that would otherwise be enjoyed.

Thanking the chapters and companions for the uniform courtesy always shown me during my term of office, I beg to decline reelection ; assured that the honor will fall on some Excellent Companion, whose time and talents will enable him better to fill the position than did his predecessor.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

HENRY CARLISLE,
Grand Sup't Hamilton District.

ST. CATHARINES, July, 1876.

TORONTO DISTRICT.

*To the Most Excellent the Grand Council, Officers and Companions
of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada.*

I have the honor to report Capitular Masonry in a sound and prosperous condition in the Toronto District.

In November last I sent a circular to the Chapters in my District with extracts from the address of the I. P. G. Z., as to

the duties of Grand Superintendents, P. Z's., and Z's., respecting the election and installation of officers ; and the care that should be taken to allow only competent Companions to rule, and am pleased to report that there was not one application for dispensation to enable a Companion—not constitutionally eligible—to assume office. I am convinced that if the suggestions made by M. E. Comp. Seymour be acted upon, that great good will result to Royal Arch Masonry.

A petition from a number of R. A. M's. was sent to me from Toronto for my recommendation to the formation of a new Chapter in that city, (Tuscan), and a protest against granting the prayer of same was received by me at the same time. After a lengthened correspondence on the subject, I came to the conclusion that I would not recommend it, as in my opinion the formation of said Chapter would not be in the interests of R. A. M. in that city, or generally ; and also because there was not supplied to me—although asked for—any evidence as to the competency of the proposed Principals. I forwarded to the parties interested a memo of my decision on the premises, and to the G. S. E. the petition as required.

I duly sent forward a petition from Yorkville Chapter for dispensation to allow a new election in place of an officer removed.

A dispensation was granted by me to Seymour Chapter to appear in R. A. regalia at a social entertainment, held in Bradford, for the purpose of raising funds for the poor. The affair passed off well, and, financially, was a success.

I would suggest, and earnestly recommend, that the present system of making a yearly flying visit to each Chapter be done away with, and that *actual* District Chapters be formed, to meet in the several Districts—say twice a year—when the books and work of the private Chapters would be examined in a deliberate and careful manner ; and, if necessary, corrections made and instructions given. The G. S. for each District could, at the meeting preceeding the Annual Convocation of Grand Chapter, be nominated, and in this manner would be the choice of the

whole District, instead of, in some instances, the few who attend Grand Chapter.

The Companions throughout the Toronto District will please accept my thanks for their kindness and courtesy during my term of office.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JNO. W. H. WILSON,
Grand Sup't Toronto District.

BRADFORD, August, 1876.

WELLINGTON DISTRICT.

*To the Most Excellent Grand Council, Officers and Members of the
Grand Chapter of Canada :*

In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution, I beg to submit the following report on the state of Royal Arch Masonry in the Wellington District.

During the year I have visited all the Chapters in the District except Saugeen, No. 50, Walkerton, but learn it is in a very prosperous condition.

I received a dispensation from the Grand Z. to install Companion H. K. Maitland, Z., of Guelph Chapter, No. 40, Guelph. The Chapter under his care has been working very harmoniously, and is now in a more prosperous condition than it has been for the last few years.

Elora Chapter, No. 49, Elora, under the watchful care of Ex. Companion W. Elliott, is in a very prosperous condition.

I visited Enterprise Chapter, No. 67, Harriston, on the 4th July, and installed the officers.

I regret to have to report that Waterloo Chapter, No. 32, Galt, is not in a very prosperous state ; when I visited the Chapter there were not sufficient Companions to open, although they had applications to receive which had been laying over for some time owing to their not being sufficient Companions present at former meetings to open the Chapter. It is a pity that the officers of

this, the oldest Chapter in the District, do not take more interest in their Chapter, as it should be one of the best in the District.

I have visited Grand River Chapter, U. D., held in Waterloo, twice; the officers are taking a great interest in their new Chapter; they have secured a nice room and fitted it up very neatly. I hope Grand Chapter will grant them a warrant as they are laying the foundation of their Chapter with the right kind of material.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. D. HEPBURN,
Grand Sup't Wellington District.

PRESTON, August 7th, 1876.

ONTARIO DISTRICT.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z. and Companions in Grand Chapter assembled:

In presenting this, my third Annual Report, I beg to state that I have during the past year visited all the Chapters under my jurisdiction, viz:—"Key-stone," Whitby; "Pentalpha," Oshawa; "Victoria," Port Hope; "Corinthian," Peterboro; "St. John's," Cobourg; and "Excelsior," Colborne, and found them all in a healthy condition. The officers are taking more interest in having the work done correctly, and as soon as the present financial crisis is over good material will be added.

I installed the officers of several of the Chapters, and was well pleased with the selections made.

I granted a dispensation to Corinthian Chapter to attend in regalia at their annual celebration, which I learn passed off most pleasantly.

I attended a Convocation of Pentalpha Chapter, Oshawa, for the purpose of investigating charges of a serious nature against Companion T. G. Hawthorne, and they were fully sustained; the Chapter deciding to suspend him, and recommending his expulsion to the Grand Chapter for "gross unmasonic conduct." It would be for the benefit of Capitular Masonry that such should be done.

I still find Victoria Chapter, Port Hope, the banner Chapter

for correctness of work, the Principals saying that every officer is duly qualified. We commend this example to others.

I now resign my trust into your hands.

All of which is respectfully submitted

PETER BEGG,

Grand Sup't Ontario District.

BRIGHTON, August 9th, 1876.

PRINCE EDWARD DISTRICT.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Grand Principals, Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada :

In conformity with the regulations of Grand Chapter, I have the pleasure of submitting the following Report of the proceedings and progress of Royal Arch Masonry in the Prince Edward District, over which I had the honor of being elected as Grand Superintendent, at the last regular Convocation of this Grand Chapter.

I have great pleasure to report that during my year of office I have received no complaints from either Chapter or Companions, which indicates the good feeling that exists among Royal Arch Masons in this District ; all communications being of the most kind and fraternal character. Owing to business and other engagements I have not been able to visit the different Chapters as much as I intended on my assuming office, I therefore trust that the Chapters I have not visited will kindly accept my apologies.

In conclusion, I desire to return my sincere thanks to Most Excellent Comp. L. H. Henderson, Grand Z., for many acts of kindness and much valuable information in my official capacity, during the past year.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WILLIAM DOCTER,

Grand Sup't Prince Edward District.

BELLEVILLE, August, 1876.

CENTRAL DISTRICT.

To the Most Excellent Grand Council, Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Canada :

At the end of this our masonic year in connection with Capitular Masonry, and my first year in office, I beg most humbly to submit the following account of my stewardship as Grand Superintendent of the Central District.

When at this time last year my Companions saw fit to elect me to this honorable office it was not without many misgivings that I accepted the same, fearing that my business pursuits might materially interfere with the time necessary for the proper fulfilment of the said office, and I must now acknowledge that my worst fears on that account have been realized, as I have been quite unable to devote even a tithe of the time that I should have liked to do in the interests of Capitular Masonry.

On the 13th Dec., 1875, I visited officially my own Chapter, Carleton, No. 16, Ottawa, under the R. E. 1st Principal W. Kerr, and I may be permitted to say without egotism, but with a just feeling of pride, that I found her as other Superintendents have borne testimony in former years—second to none in the work of the Chapter, and ahead of most in the entertainment of visitors.

On the 11th March, 1876, agreeably to a dispensation granted in favor of E. Comp. Prine, of Pembroke Chapter, who had not served in the chair of H., I, assisted by R. E. Comps. Gemmell and Kerr, and E. Comp. Eastwood, installed him (Ex. Comp. Prine,) as 1st Principal Z. of Pembroke Chapter.

On the 13th March, I visited Granite Chapter, Perth, and installed its Principals and officers, examined the records, found all satisfactory and enjoyed the generous hospitality of the Companions.

On the 17th March, I had arranged for a visit to Pembroke Chapter, for the installation of its officers, but a disastrous fire having broken out in my workshop that morning prevented my going. I subsequently, when up the river on other business, tried to get a meeting of the Chapter, but the notice being

too short, it was found impossible to get the Companions together. In this connection I would mention the sad bereavement suffered by Pembroke Chapter in the death, at an early age, of Ex. Comp. W. H. Supple, P. H., a bright and zealous Mason. May his follies be a warning, and his virtues an incentive to lead us to conform more fully to the will of G. A. O. T. U.

On the 31st March, assisted by R. E. Comps. Gemmell and Kerr, and Ex. Comp. Eastwood, I installed Ex. Comp. Moore, of Sussex Chapter, Brockville, he having been granted a dispensation from the Most Ex. Z., not having served as W. M. of a Craft Lodge. I had previously had some correspondence with said Chapter, owing to the resignation of some of the officers elect, and although I am happy to state that all differences were amicably settled and the resignations withdrawn, yet it appears to me that they arose chiefly from the working of our Constitutional rule—making an Ex. Companion ineligible for the 1st Principals' chair, unless he has served as a W. M. of a Craft Lodge—unless by special dispensation from the G. Z., which rule I consider does more harm than good, and might with advantage be expunged from our Constitution.

On the 31st July, I visited Maitland Chapter and found everything satisfactory, going thence to Kingston on the 1st inst. "Ancient Frontenac" and "Cataraqui" met together, but not having any work on hand, and owing to the extreme heat of the weather, the work was not exemplified; but the records and books of both were well and carefully kept.

On the 3rd visited Grenville Chapter, Prescott, for the purpose of installing its officers, but their not being a sufficient number of Companions in attendance, no meeting was held. Examined the books and records, finding them all satisfactory, reflecting great credit on the efficient S. E.

On the 4th I enjoyed the very kind hospitality of Sussex Chapter, Brockville, in a trip to Alexandria Bay, and visited it in the evening for the purpose of dedication. Having lately moved into a large and commodious Hall, and got all their petty differences settled, Sussex now bids fair to be again prosperous.

In conclusion I can only say that it affords me much pleasure to state that no Masonic complaint has been made to me during my term of office, and in tendering my thanks to the Chapters and Companions of the District for their universal courtesy and kindness to me in my official intercourse with them, I trust that they will not take it amiss, even from one so young as I am, should I advise them in their elections especially to forget all party or political feeling—"Let Whig an' Tory a' agree." Let proficiency and worth control the Ballot for Rulers, and sterling integrity the election of those who handle the Shekels of the sanctuary.

All of which is respectfully submitted—craving pardon for blunders, and charity for my short-comings.

Faithfully and fraternally yours,

W. M. SOMERVILLE,

Grand Sup't Central District.

OTTAWA, August 7th, 1876.

MONTREAL DISTRICT.

To the Most Excellent First Principal, R. Ex., and Excellent Companions of Grand Chapter :

The Grand Superintendent of Montreal District is able to report that the Chapters in the District, viz:—Carnarvon, No. 21; Mount Horeb, No. 25; Montreal, No. 42; Royal Albert, No. 43, and St. Charles, No. 51, are all under the charge of able and efficient officers; and are carrying on the work entrusted to them in accordance with the land-marks, regulations, and Constitution of the order. No subject of complaint or grievance has been brought before the Grand Superintendent, nor has he been called upon to exercise any of the special privileges conferred upon him by the Constitution of the Grand Chapter during his term of office.

Respectfully submitted.

F. EDGAR,

Grand Sup't Montreal District.

MONTREAL, August 8th, 1876.

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS' DISTRICT.

*To the Most Excellent the Grand Council, Officers and Companions
of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada :*

In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution, I beg leave to make the following report on the condition of Capitular Masonry in this District.

The Chapters remain the same in number as last year, viz :— Golden Rule, No. 9, Sherbrooke ; Prevost, No. 14, Dunham, and Dorchester, No. 17, Waterloo.

Golden Rule Chapter has not been working for several years. An attempt was made two or three years ago to resuscitate it, but owing to the death of E. Comp. Wiswell, proved a failure. I would recommend that the petition of certain Companions of this Chapter, already presented to the M. E. Grand Z., be favorably considered by Grand Chapter. I am happy to be able to report that Prevost Chapter, No. 14, is still in a prosperous condition. Dorchester Chapter, No. 17, is not working, owing to want of energy among some of the older members, I believe, more than anything else.

No masonic complaints have been made to me during the year.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

H. W. WOOD, M.D.,

Grand Sup't Eastern Townships' District.

KNOWLTON, August 8th, 1876.

NEW BRUNSWICK DISTRICT.

*To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Grand Principals and Grand
Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada :*

I beg leave to report that I have visited "New Brunswick" Royal Arch Chapter, No. 10, in the city of Saint John, N.B., and with the assistance of Past 1st Principal Duffel, have duly installed the officers. The Chapter is in excellent working order, and Companion Duffel has been re-elected and installed 1st Principal for the fourth time in succession.

Botsford Royal Arch Chapter, No. 39, of Moncton, N.B., I have not found it convenient to visit before making this my report, but expect to be able to pay a visit to that Chapter shortly.

There have been no masonic complaints during the year.

Respectfully submitted.

JOSEPH C. HATHEWAY,

Grand Sup't New Brunswick District.

ST. JOHN, N.B., July 19th, 1876.

MANITOBA DISTRICT.

*To the Most Excellent the Grand Council, Officers and Companions
of the Grand Chapter of Canada :*

As Superintendent of this Province, and in accordance with the Constitution of Grand Chapter, I beg leave to submit the following report :—

Prince Rupert's Chapter, the only one in the Province, was in a flourishing condition until the Annual Election of officers in October last. A difficulty then occurred by the Z. leaving the Province, and the J. elect declining to fill the office to which he had been elected. An emergent meeting was called to fill the chairs thus made vacant, at which meeting the H. elect declined to accept the office to which he had been elected, thus vacating the three chairs.

At the unanimous request of the Companions present, I ordered a new election, although the meeting was only called to elect Z. and J., believing that it was for the best interest of the Chapter to do so. After the election, the H. who had declined his office, protested against the proceedings, and claimed the chair which he had resigned. On appeal, the G. Z. has ruled that the whole election held at the emergent meeting be set aside, including the Z. and J. elected at the meeting called for that purpose. When the Grand Z's decision was received by the appellant, I was absent from the Province ; on my return I found that a Past Z. had, unassisted, and without the chair degrees, installed the H. that had resigned his chair. I ruled the installation of the H. was

null and void, as he had not been installed by a council of installed second Principals, and not mentally qualified to perform the work as required by Grand Chapter, and the J., also, that he had declined the office and another had been elected in his stead at a meeting called for that purpose.

As our Annual Election is close at hand, I believe the difficulty will settle itself at the next regular election ; in the meantime the officers last regularly installed will fill the chairs.

In conclusion, if the recommendation of our M. E. G. Z. at last annual Convocation to Superintendents and Installing Councils be carried out, "that no one be installed unless they are competent to discharge the duties of their office," the Chapter will soon occupy a position second to none under the Grand Chapter.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAS. HENDERSON,
Grand Sup't Manitoba District.

WINNIPEG, July 27th, 1876.

R. E. Comp. Henry Robertson submitted the report on Foreign Correspondence, which was on motion of R. E. Comp. D. McLellan, seconded by R. E. Comp. F. J. Menet, received and ordered to be printed as an appendix to the proceedings.

R. E. Comp. Daniel Spry reported on behalf of the committee appointed at the last Annual Convocation to procure suitable testimonials to be presented to the Past Grand Z's., that said committee had purchased three very handsome gold Past Z's. Jewels and Collars, and had presented them to M. E. Comps. C. D. Macdonnell, S. B. Harman, and James Seymour, as instructed by Grand Chapter.

The M. E. Comps. named thanked Grand Chapter in suitable terms.

The following notices of motion of places for holding the next Annual Convocation of Grand Chapter were given, viz., by :—

- R. Ex. Comp. David McLellan, - City of Hamilton.
 " " Isaac Waterman, - - City of London.
 V. " " J. O'Donnell, - - Town of Peterboro.
 " " Donald Ross, - - - City of Toronto.
 " " V. H. Morse, - - Town of Brockville.

Moved by M. E. Comp. Jas. Seymour, seconded by V. E. Comp. Despard :—

That the Hamilton District, as now constituted, be divided into two separate Districts—the Hamilton District to be composed of the City of Hamilton, Counties of N. and S. Wentworth, and Halton; and the Niagara District to be composed of the Counties of Lincoln, Welland, Haldimand and Monck.

Objection having been taken that notice of this amendment to the Constitution did not appear in the Minutes, it had to stand over.

The Grand Scribe E. submitted the Annual Statement of moneys received during the past year, together with the Books, &c., which were received and referred to the Executive Committee. [See page 127.]

R. E. Comp. David McLellan presented his Annual Statement of receipts and disbursements with vouchers attached. [See page 128.]

Moved by R. E. Comp. J. K. Kerr, seconded by R. E. Comp. Daniel Spry—

That the Treasurer's Annual Statement be referred to the Executive Committee.

Grand Scribe E. presented a petition from Comp. James Wilson and a number of Royal Arch Masons, residents of the City of Toronto, asking for a Dispensation or Warrant to open a Chapter to be called "Occident."

Moved by M. E. Comp. S. B. Harman, seconded by M. Ex. Comp. C. D. Macdonnell—

That the petition be referred to the Executive Committee for consideration.

Grand Scribe E. read a communication from R. E. Comp. F. Edgar, Grand Superintendent of Montreal District, inviting Grand Chapter to a banquet at the Carlton Club, this Wednesday evening. The invitation was received and cordially accepted.

R. E. Comp. A. A. Stevenson, presented his Credentials as the Representative of the Grand Chapter of the State of Massachusetts, which the M.E. the Grand Z. was pleased to receive and accept.

R. E. Comp. I. H. Stearns presented his Credentials as the Representative of the Grand Chapter of the State of New Hampshire, which the M. E. the Grand Z. was pleased to receive and accept.

The Companions were severally greeted with the usual masonic salutations—which were suitably acknowledged.

E. Comp. Henry McPherson, on behalf of the Executive Committee, presented the following report on

WARRANTS.

The Executive Committee beg to report that they have examined the books and records of the undermentioned Chapters, under dispensation, and recommend that Warrants of Confirmation be granted :

Grand River, Waterloo.
 Prince of Wales, . . . Amherstburgh.
 Keystone, St. Thomas.
 Erie, Port Stanley.
 Beaver, Strathroy.
 Mount Nebo, Drummondville.

And in the case of St. Clair, Milton, they recommend a Warrant to be issued, although they have not yet met under the dispensation, being assured by recommendation that the Comps. are well qualified to carry on a Chapter.

We have also before us an application for a Warrant from certain Companions in Toronto, to be named the Occident, but as it lacks the recommendation of the Grand Superintendent of

the District, as required by the Constitution, your Committee would recommend that the same be referred to the M. E. the Grand Z., for him to take such action as he may deem meet.

HENRY MACPHERSON,

Chairman Ex. Com.

It was moved by E. Comp. Henry Macpherson, seconded by R. E. Comp. Peter Begg, and resolved—

That the report of the Executive Committee on Warrants be received and adopted.

E. Comp. Henry Macpherson also submitted the following report on

CONDITION OF CAPITULAR MASONRY.

The Executive Committee beg leave to present the following report on Capitular Masonry :

Reports have been received from the Superintendents of the London, Wilson, Huron, Wellington, Hamilton, Toronto, Ontario, Prince Edward, Central, Montreal, Eastern Townships', New Brunswick and Manitoba Districts.

From these reports it is found that Capitular Masonry is in a flourishing and prosperous condition throughout the several Districts. Harmony prevails, very few complaints are reported, and those generally of a character to be easily settled. Most of the Chapters have been visited, and favorable accounts heard from those not visited, and a steady and general increase in membership shows that Capitular Masonry still bears a high character in Canada.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

HENRY MACPHERSON,

Chairman Ex. Com.

Moved by E. Comp. Macpherson, seconded by R. E. Comp. Weller—

That the report of the Executive Committee on the Condition of Capitular Masonry be received and adopted.

R. E. Comp. W. H. Weller, on behalf of the Executive Committee, submitted the following report on

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS.

Comp. George Pocock was exalted in Mount Horeb Chapter, No. 25, and was subsequently suspended for non-payment of dues. He has never obtained his Grand Chapter Certificate of Exaltation, and now demands it, although his suspension appears to be still in force. His Chapter resists the demand and the Companion now appeals to Grand Chapter.

Under these circumstances, the Committee is of opinion that the position taken by Comp. Pocock is in strictness correct, and that he is entitled to his Grand Chapter Certificate notwithstanding his suspension. This is the ruling of the Grand Lodge under similar circumstances, and it may with propriety be followed.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. H. WELLER,

Chairman.

August 9th, 1876.

Moved by R. E. Comp. Weller, seconded by R. E. Comp. Henry Robertson—

That the Report of the Executive Committee on Grievances and Appeals be received and adopted.

R. E. Comp. Daniel Spry, on behalf of the Executive Committee, presented the report on

AUDIT AND FINANCE.

The Executive Committee beg leave to report that they have examined the books and vouchers of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Scribe E. to the 1st August, 1876, and find them correct. The following statement exhibits the financial position of the Chapter, and also the receipts and expenditure for the past year.

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand from last year	\$1,284	48
“ received for fees and dues	\$2,105	40
Interest on \$3,000 Dominion Stock.....	150	00
“ on Bank deposit	58	76
	2,314	16
	<hr/>	
	\$3,598	64

EXPENDITURE.

Chairman Committee of Foreign Correspondence for 1875,	\$50	00
J. W. Murton, salary as G. S. E. in 1874,.....	25	00
R. P. Stephens, on ac., salary as G. S. E.,	375	00
Three Jewels for Past Grand Z's.,	345	00
Rolph & Co., Certificates,.....	150	00
Mrs. Harris, to 14th October, 1876, Annual Grant....	200	00
W. C. Morrison, Clothing G. Z.,	35	00
G. C. Patterson, printing Proceedings,.....	145	75
Engraving Warrants,	21	00
Stationery,	38	40
Grand Janitor,	10	00
Grand S. E., sundry disbursements,.....	94	35
	<hr/>	
	1,489	50
Balance of Cash on hand.....	2,109	14
	<hr/>	
	\$3,598	64

ASSETS.

Cash on hand, in Consolidated Bank	\$2,109	14
Dominion Stock, bearing 5 per cent. interest.....	3,000	00
	<hr/>	
	\$5,109	14

The Committee, having examined the following accounts, recommend them for payment, viz :

W. C. Morrison, for Grand Z's Jewels	\$345	00
G. C. Patterson, printing Proceedings,	145	75
Rowell & Hutchinson, stationery,	31	75
W. C. Morrison, Grand Z's Clothing,.....	35	00
Rordans & Nicholls, Engrossing.....	21	00
James Bain, Stationery.....	7	95
John Foote, Advertising.....	6	40

G. C. Patterson, Circulars	2 50
Subscription to the <i>Craftsman</i>	1 50
Report on Foreign Correspondence, 1876	50 00
Grand Scribe E., balance Salary to Aug. 9th '76.....	250 00
H. A. Baxter, expenses to Montreal.....	20 00
James Seymour, Postage, Printing Stationery, &c.	23 92
	<hr/>
	\$940 77

The Committee recommended that \$1,500 be permanently invested in Dominion Stock, or Provincial Government Stock.

They also recommend that the Consolidated Bank of Canada be the bankers of Grand Chapter.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

DANIEL SPRY,

Chairman of Com.

It was moved by R. E. Comp. D. Spry, seconded by R. E. Comp. F. J. Menet, and resolved—

That the Report of the Executive Committee on Audit and Finance be received and adopted.

M. E. Comp. Harman presented the Report of the Executive Committee on the Address of the M. E. the First Principal :

REPORT.

The Executive Committee beg to report that they have considered the very able and excellent address delivered by the M. E. Grand Z., and are glad to find that the present condition of Royal Arch Masonry is such as to warrant cordial expressions of congratulation.

They lament the decease of R. Ex. Comp. Aldis Bernard, and feel that the Craft have sustained a great loss by his death.

Your committee are glad to see that the financial affairs of the Grand Chapter are in such a prosperous condition, and that the Grand Officers who have charge of this important branch of the business have attended to their duties so faithfully. They also

believe that some measures should be taken to ensure the proper returns being sent in by subordinate chapters in due time.

They recommend that the action taken in purchasing a suit of clothing for the M. E. G. Z. to become Grand Chapter property, be sustained.

Your committee also endorse the appointment of Representatives as mentioned in the address, and they have no doubt but that Grand Chapter will cordially welcome those R. Ex. Companions appointed by other jurisdictions, to the end that fraternal relations may be more cordial and pleasant.

With regard to the present position of our Representative near the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, your committee do not see that any further action on the part of this Grand Chapter is necessary at this time; they hope that the reply which is now expected from that Grand Chapter will be of such a nature that this matter may be considered at an end. They recommend the matter be left in the hands of the M. E. Grand Z.

Your committee heartily endorse the action of the M. E. Grand Z., with regard to those Companions who have been lately expelled by the Grand Lodge of Canada, and they recommend that the same course be pursued towards them by this Grand Chapter as was taken by the Grand Lodge of Canada.

Your committee are glad to notice the favorable remarks of the M. E. Grand Z. on the Report on Foreign Correspondence, as this valuable epitome of Masonic news is of great service to all the Companions.

In conclusion, your committee would desire to record the cordial appreciation of the members of this Grand Chapter of the manner in which the onerous duties of Grand Z. have been performed during the past year by M. E. Comp. Henderson, and they hope he may long be spared to assist us with his advice and counsel.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

S. B. HARMAN,
Chairman.

MONTREAL, Aug. 9th, 1876.

It was moved by R. E. Comp. Harman, seconded by R. E. Comp. H. Robertson, and resolved—

That the report of the Executive Committee on the address of the M. E. Grand Z. be received and adopted.

Since the meeting of Grand Chapter, the following reply has been received from the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia. We are glad to find this little difficulty is thus happily disposed of.

DANIEL SPRY,
G. S. E.

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 8th, 1876.

R. E. SIR AND COMP :—

In answer to your letter of July 22nd, in regard to revoking the commission of Comp. Mason, I have to inform you that I submitted the same to our M. E. G. H. Priest, and he requested me to say that, so far as he is concerned, there is no unpleasant feeling between Comp. Mason and himself, but that the most friendly relations exist; nor does *he* desire any change. He thinks the Report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence *adopted by this Grand Chapter*, sufficiently explicit, and will let the matter rest with the Grand Z.

Respectfully and fraternally,

C. W. HANCOCK,
Grand Sec'y.

R. P. STEPHENS, ESQ.,
Grand Scribe E.

Toronto, Canada.

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION.

In accordance with notice given at last Regular Convocation, (See page 60, pp. '75) it was moved by M. Ex. Comp. Jas. Seymour, seconded by M. Ex. Comp. C. D. Macdonnell, that Section No. 1 of the Constitution, relating to the Executive Committee, seventh line, be amended, by erasing the words "Committee may elect its own," and substituting therefor the words "Grand H. shall be the;" making the complete amended sentence read "The Grand H. shall be the presiding officer, and four members shall

constitute a quorum for the despatch of business." Carried.

It was moved by M. E. Comp. S. B. Harman, seconded by R. Ex. Comp. J. K. Kerr, and resolved—

That Grand Chapter will permit the minutes of last year, (notwithstanding the action taken at a previous session this evening), to be now amended by the insertion of a notice given last year as to the division of the Hamilton District.

M. Ex. Comp. Seymour then moved, seconded by V. E. Comp. Despard, his resolution for the division of the Hamilton District, [see page 113] which was carried.

In accordance with notice given, a vote of Grand Chapter was severally taken on the places put in nomination for holding the next Annual Convocation of Grand Chapter, and on motion of Ex. Comp. Waterman, seconded by R. Ex. Comp. J. O'Connor, the vote was declared in favor of the City of London.

The following notices of motion for next Annual Convocation was given :

By Ex. Comp. Macpherson.

That Article 9 of the Grand Chapter be changed so far as relates to the time at which the Annual Convocation be held.

By Ex. Comp. Geo. Watson, Toronto,

That the words, "an Installed First Principal or," be expunged, and insert in lieu thereof, the word "A," in reference to qualification for Grand Superintendents of Districts.

The election of Officers was then proceeded with, and the following Companions were declared duly elected, viz :

R. E. Comp. L. H. Henderson, Belleville,	Grand Z.
" " " F. J. Menet, Toronto,	" H.
" " " Frank Edgar, Montreal,	" J.
" " " Daniel Spry, Toronto,	" Scribe E.

R. E. Comp.	F. W. Despard, Hamilton,	Grand Scribe N.
" "	Geo. Creeggan, Kingston,	" Prin. Sojo'r.
" "	David McLellan, Hamilton,	" Treasurer.
" "	J. G. Burns, Toronto,	" Registrar.

The following Companions were nominated by the Representatives from the respective Districts, and approved by the M. E. Grand Z., as

GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS.

R. E. Comp.	A. J. Smyth, London,	London District
" "	A. W. Francis, Woodstock,	Wilson "
" "	C. L. T. Campbell, Stratford,	Huron "
" "	W. D. Hepburn, Preston,	Wellington "
V. "	J. B. Neff, Port Colborne,	Niagara "
R. "	Rich. Brierley, Hamilton,	Hamilton "
" "	R. J. Hovenden, Toronto,	Toronto "
" "	J. H. Helm, Port Hope,	Ontario "
" "	Alfred Ellis, Belleville,	P. Edward "
R. "	W. M. Somerville, Ottawa,	Central "
" "	J. T. McMinn, Montreal,	Montreal "
R. "	Dr. H. W. Wood, Knowlton,	Eastern T's "
" "	W. W. Kennedy, Winnipeg,	Manitoba "

The following named Companions were elected members of the Executive Committee for the ensuing year, :

R. E. Comp.	J. B. Nixon,	Toronto.
" "	Henry Robertson,	Collingwood.
" "	H. Macpherson,	Owen Sound.
R. "	W. H. Weller,	Cobourg.
" "	W. Carey,	London,

By an open vote of Grand Chapter, Comp. Hood, of London, was elected Grand Janitor for the ensuing year.

Moved by M. E. Comp. Seymour, and seconded by Ex. Comp. H. Macpherson, that this Grand Chapter declare the

following Comps., viz: F. Westlake, J. R. Peel, W. D. McGloghlon, John H. Ley, Peter Grant, and Mark Solomon be called to show cause why they should not be expelled from Masonry for violating their obligations as Royal Arch Masons. Carried.

They were then severally called at the portals of Grand Chapter, after which it was moved by M. Ex. Comp. Jas. Seymour, and seconded by M. Ex. Comp. S. B. Harman, and resolved—

That having been duly called at the portals of Grand Chapter, and having failed to answer or appear, are hereby severally excluded and expelled from all the rights, privileges, and benefits of Royal Arch Masonry, of which all Chapters and Companions will take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

M. E. Comp. Jas. Seymour, Past Grand Z., proceeded with the installation of the elected officers for the ensuing year as follows :

M. E. Comp.	L. H. Henderson, Belleville,	Grand Z.	} Grand
R. “	“ F. J. Menet, Toronto,	“ H.	
“ “	“ Frank Edgar. Montreal,	“ J.	} Council.
“ “	“ Daniel Spry, Toronto,	“	
“ “	“ F. R. Despard, Hamilton,	“	Scribe E.
“ “	“ Geo. Creeggan, Kingston,	“	“ N.
“ “	“ David McLellan, Hamilton,	“	Prin. Sojo'r.
“ “	“ J. G. Burns, Toronto,	“	Treasurer.
“	“ T. J. Hood, London,	“	Registrar.
		“	Janitor.

GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS.

R. E. Comp.	A. J. Smyth, London,	London District.
“ “	“ A. W. Francis, Woodstock,	Wilson “
“ “	“ C. L. T. Campbell, Stratford,	Huron “
“ “	“ W. D. Hepburn, Preston,	Wellingt'n “
“ “	“ Rich. Brierley, Hamilton,	Hamilton “
“ “	“ J. B. Neff, Port Colborne,	Niagara “
“ “	“ R. J. Hovenden, Toronto,	Toronto “

R. E. Comp.	J. H. Helm, Port Hope,	Ontario District
" "	" Alfred Ellis, Belleville,	P. Edward "
" "	" W. M. Somerville, Ottawa,	Central "
" "	" J. T. McMinn, Montreal,	Montreal "
" "	" Dr. H. W. Wood, Knowlton,	Eastern T's "
" "	" W. W. Kennedy, Winnipeg,	Manitoba "

At a subsequent date the M. E. Grand Z. was pleased to notify the Grand Scribe E. of the following appointments to office for the year ensuing, viz :

V. E. Comp.	Isaac Waterman, London,	Grand 1st Asst. Soj'r.
" "	" V. H. Moore, Brockville,	" 2nd " "
" "	" Wm. Kerr, Ottawa,	" Sword Bearer.
" "	" Geo. Watson, Toronto,	" Standard "
" "	" John Fisher, Eglington,	" Dir'r. of Cer's,
" "	" R. H. Green, Peterboro,	" Organist.
" "	" S. M. Conger, Picton,	" Pursuivant.
" "	" Jas. Martin, Montreal,	} Grand Stewards.
" "	" H. T. Wood, Cobourg,	
" "	" J. Corlis, St. Thomas,	
" "	" S. S. Lazier, Belleville,	

The M. E. Grand Z. directed that each Companion elected and appointed to office, not having presented himself for installation or investiture, is to be installed or invested in the Chapter of which he is a member.

R. Ex. Comp. Hovenden again presented the petition of certain Comps. for a dispensation to open a Chapter in the west end of the City of Toronto, to be called the "Occident," stating that, since it was before the Committee on Warrants, he had appended his recommendation thereto as Grand Superintendent of the Toronto District.

Moved by R. Ex. Comp. F. J. Menet, seconded by R. Ex. Comp. R. J. Hovenden, and resolved—

That the M. Ex. the [Grand Z. be requested to issue his dispensation for the opening of Occident Chapter, and that a

warrant issue after the expiration of three months, provided in the meantime the M. Ex. the Grand Z. be satisfied by the production of the necessary books and papers that the Comps. named as Principals are competent to conduct a Chapter in an efficient manner, and that it is a proper case for a Warrant.

Moved by R. Ex. Comp. F. J. Menet, seconded by R. E. Comp. Daniel Spry,—

That the dues of Golden Rule Chapter, No. 9, Stanstead, be remitted from the year 1869 to the present time, and that only the amount due up to that date be charged against them.

It was moved by M. Ex. Comp. Jas. Seymour, seconded by R. Ex. Comp. David McLellan, and resolved—

That the M. Ex. the Grand Z. be authorized to defray all the incidental expenses which have been incurred in connection with the holding of this Annual Convocation, and also for printing the proceedings thereof, as soon as the same shall have been completed and delivered to the Grand Scribe E.

It was moved by R. Ex. Comp. David McLellan, seconded by V. Ex. Comp. Wm. Kerr, and resolved :

That the cordial thanks of this Grand Chapter be tendered to the Companions of Carnarvon Chapter, No. 21, Mount Horeb Chapter, No. 25, Montreal Chapter, No. 42, Royal Albert Chapter, No. 45, and St. Charles Chapter, No. 51, for the excellent arrangement made for the holding of this Annual Convocation of Grand Chapter, and for the generous hospitality extended to the Representatives and Visitors.

It was moved by R. Ex. Comp. R. J. Hovenden, seconded by R. Ex. Comp. Thomas Sargant, and resolved —

That the thanks of this Grand Chapter be tendered to the Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Company, to the Grand Trunk

and Buffalo and Goderich, the St. Lawrence and Ottawa, the Canada Central, the Midland, and B. and O., and the Great Western, Air Line, W. G. and B. Railways for their liberality in reducing the fares to delegates attending this Annual Convocation.

The labors of Grand Chapter being ended, it was closed in ample form at 8 o'clock p. m.



Daniel Spry,

Grand Scribe C.

ANNUAL STATEMENT, AUGUST, 1876.

R. P. STEPHENS, G. S. E., in account with the Grand Chapter of Canada.

DR.	1875.	CR.
No. 1—Ancient Frontenac... 16 20	Aug. 12.—By Grand Treas. \$109 40	
" 2—The Hiram... 35 60	Nov. 29.—" " 433 95	
" 3—St. John... 103 60	1876.	
" 4—St. Andrew and St. John... 57 00	Mar. 29.—" " 622 15	
" 5—St. George... 81 80	July. 31.—" " 939 90	
" 7—Moir... 13 00		
" 8—King Solomon... 65 00		
" 10—New Brunswick... 78 60		
" 12—Cataragui... 17 80		
" 14—Prevost... 13 00		
" 15—Wawanosh... 44 25		
" 16—Carlton... 58 20		
" 18—Oxford... 8 00		
" 19—Mount Moriah... 54 90		
" 21—Carnarvon... 44 10		
" 22—Grenville... 38 00		
" 23—Ezra... 30 40		
" 24—Tecumseth... 12 00		
" 25—Mount Horeb... 106 50		
" 27—Manitou... 17 60		
" 28—Pentalpha... 28 50		
" 29—McCallum... 12 60		
" 31—Prince Edward... 41 00		
" 34—Signet... 40 00		
" 36—Corinthian... 31 80		
" 37—Victoria... 20 00		
" 38—Seymour... 15 10		
" 39—Botsford... 21 20		
" 40—Guelph... 13 10		
" 41—Harris... 25 00		
" 42—Montreal... 14 00		
" 43—Royal Albert... 65 00		
" 44—Mount Sinai... 20 00		
" 45—Excelsior... 63 00		
" 47—Wellington... 65 80		
" 48—St. John's... 4 00		
" 49—Elora... 31 70		
" 52—Prince Rupert... 122 10		
" 53—Bruce... 50 00		
" 55—Niagara... 4 60		
" 56—Georgian... 33 00		
" 57—King Hiram... 39 00		
" 58—Pembroke... 46 80		
" 59—Sussex... 3 00		
" 60—Doric... 10 00		
" 61—Granite... 19 90		
" 63—Havelock... 19 40		
" 64—Wilson... 30 20		
" 65—Ontario... 39 00		
" 66—Seaforth... 12 40		
" 67—Enterprise... 32 20		
" 68—Maitland... 10 10		
" 69—Grimsby... 10 00		
U. D.—Prince of Wales... 40 00		
U. D.—Keystone... 40 00		
U. D.—Beaver... 40 00		
U. D.—St. Clair... 50 00		
U. D.—Mount Nebo... 40 00		
R. Ex. Comp. Carlyle, disp.. 1 00		
To balance due Scribe E.... 4 35		
Total rec'd from Chapters. \$2,105 40		\$2,105 40

DAVID McLELLAN, GRAND TREASURER, IN ACC. WITH
GRAND CHAPTER.

1875.		DR.		
Aug. 2.	To cash on hand			\$1,284 48
" 12.	" Grand Scribe E.....		\$109 40	
Nov. 29.	" " "		433 95	
" 29.	" Interest on \$3,000 Dominion Stock to Oct. 30th, 1875.....		75 00	
" 30.	" Bank interest to date		28 96	
1876.				
March 29.	" Grand Scribe E.....		622 15	
May 31.	" Interest on \$3,000 Dominion Stock to April 30th, 1876.....		75 00	
" 31.	" Bank Interest to May 9th, 1876.....		29 80	
July 31.	" Grand Scribe E		939,90	2,314 16
				<hr/>
1875.		CR.		\$3,598 64
Aug. 12.	By order T. D. Harington, adv. postpone- ment		13 40	
Nov. 29.	" H. Robertson, Report on Foreign Correspondence		50 00	
" 29.	" R. P. Stephens Salary to Aug 1' 75		125 00	
" 29.	" Mrs. M. E. Harris, allowance to Aug. 1, 1875.....		50 00	
" 29,	" Rordans & Nichols, Engraving 6 Warrants.....		21 00	
" 29.	" James Bain, Stationery for G. S. E's. Office.....		7 95	
" 29.	" Rowsell & Hutchinson, Stationery and Printing.....		30 45	
" 29.	" R. P. Stephens, Mail Printing Co. \$3.00; J. Cameron, \$2.50; Jas. Bain, \$16.00; Disburse- ments, 1875, \$52.95.		74 55	
" 29.	" R. P. Stephens, Salary to Nov. 1'75		125 00	
" 30.	" Mrs. M. E. Harris, allowance to Nov. 1, 1875.....		50 00	
Dec. 1.	" J. W. Murton, Expense to Grand Chapter, 1874.....		25 00	
1876.				
March 1.	" Mrs. M. E. Harris, allowance to Feb'y. 1, 1876.....		50 00	
" 29.	" G. C. Patterson, Pr'ting Proceedings		145 75	
" 29.	" Foote, Adv. Postponement.....		6 40	
" 29.	" W. C. Morrison, 3 P.G.Z's. Jewels		345 00	
" 29.	" R. P. Stephens, Salary to Feb. 1...		125 00	
July 31.	" R. Ratcliffe, Grand Janitor.....		10 00	
" 31.	" Rolph & Co., 300 Certificates.....		150 00	
" 31.	" W. C. Morrison G.Z's Clothing...		35 00	
" 31.	" Mrs. M. E. Harris, allowance to May 1, 1876.....		50 00	
				<hr/>
				1,489 50
" 31.	To Balance on hand in Consolidated Bank..	\$2,109 14	\$3,598 64	

Tabular Statement Extracted from the Returns for the year 1876.

AN.	NAME OF CHAPTER.	PLACE OF MEETING.	No. of Registr'n.	No. of Joinings.	With- drawals.	Suspen- sions.	Deaths.	No. of Members.
1	Ancient Frontenac	Kingston	5	..	1	..	2	67
2	The Hiram	Hamilton	14	..	2	8	..	108
3	St. John's	London	23	1	2	3	..	62
4	St. Andrew and St. John	Toronto	10	1	2	9	..	110
5	St. George's	London	18	3	...	..	1	115
6	St. John's	Hamilton	30	1	..	..	1	185
7	Moir	Belleville	..	..	..	..	..	66
8	King Solomon's	Toronto	11	1	2	3	..	145
9	Golden Rule	Sherbrooke	..	..	..	..	..	72
10	New Brunswick	St. John	9	..	..	..	..	131
12	Cataraqui	Kingston	2	..	1	..	..	59
13	Stadacona	Quebec	..	..	..	..	..	56
14	Prevost	Dunham	..	..	..	..	..	50
15	Wawanosh	Sarnia	8	1	5	..	1	62
16	Carleton	Ottawa	6	3	9	1	2	106
17	Dorchester	Waterloo	..	..	..	..	..	51
18	Oxford	Woodstock	1	..	1	..	..	35
19	Mount Moriah	St. Catharines	6	1	..	9	2	92
20	Mount Horeb	Brantford	1	..	1	2	1	33
21	Carnarvon	Montreal	10	1	8	2	1	38
22	Grenville	Prescott	5	..	7	..	2	44
23	Ezra	Simcoe	..	..	..	..	..	36
24	Tecumseh	Stratford	2	..	1	..	..	37
25	Mount Horeb	Montreal	9	1	5	5	..	105
26	St. Mark's	Trenton	..	..	..	..	..	25
27	Manitou	Collingwood	3	..	1	..	..	43
28	Pentalpha	Oshawa	3	1	..	..	..	50

NO.	NAME OF CHAPTER.	PLACE OF MEETING.	No. of Registra'n.	No. of Joinings.	With- drawals.	Suspen- sions.	Deaths.	No. of Members.
29	McCallum	Dunville	3	..	6	..	..	48
30	Huron	Goderich .....	..	..	..	..	..	52
31	Prince Edward	Pictou	2	..	..	..	..	45
32	Waterloo	Galt	2	..	6	..	..	44
34	Signet	Orillia	2	..	..	..	5	30
35	Keystone	Whitby .....	..	..	..	..	..	40
36	Corinthian	Peterboro	6	..	1	..	..	39
37	Victoria	Port Hope	2	..	5	..	..	40
38	Seymour	Bradford .....	..	1	3	5	1	30
39	Botsford	Moneton	4	..	2	..	..	46
40	Guelph	Guelph	1	..	1	..	..	43
41	Harris	Ingersoll .....	..	..	..	..	..	30
42	Montreal	Montreal .....	..	..	..	..	..	40
43	Royal Albert	Montreal	4	..	3	..	..	47
44	Mount Sinai	Napanee .....	..	..	..	..	..	39
45	Excelsior	Colborne .....	..	..	..	..	..	33
46	St. James	St. Mary's .....	..	..	..	..	..	25
47	Wellington.	Chatham	17	4	..	..	3	62
48	St. John's	Cobourg .....	..	..	5	..	..	20
49	Elora	Elora	8	1	..	..	..	36
50	Saugeen	Walkerton .....	..	..	..	..	..	23
51	St. Charles	Point St. Charles .....	..	..	..	..	..	35
52	Prince Rupert's	Winnipeg .....	..	..	..	..	..	39
53	Bruce	Petrolia .....	..	..	..	..	..	40
54	De Warrenne	St. Thomas	10	1	1	..	..	50
55	Niagara	Niagara	4	..	..	..	1	21
56	Georgian	Owen Sound	6	..	1	..	..	30
57	King Hiram	Port Colborne	11	..	..	..	..	31
58	Pembroke	Pembroke	14	..	..	..	..	24
59	Sussex	Brockville .....	..	..	..	..	..	26

60	Doric	Newmarket	..	..	..	..	..	15
61	Granite	Perth	6	..	..	..	..	24
62	York	Eglinton	..	1	..	..	..	18
63	Havelock	Lacknow	5	..	..	..	..	14
64	Wilson	Welland	11	..	..	..	..	22
65	Ontario	Yorkville	10	2	..	..	..	23
66	Seaforth	Seaforth	5	..	..	..	..	17
67	Enterprise	Harriston	7	..	..	..	..	16
68	Maitland	Maitland	7	2	..	..	..	21
69	Grimsby	Grimsby	9	..	..	..	..	24
			280	28	47	23	3285	

RECAPITULATION.

Number of Chapters on the Roll	69	Number of Withdrawals reported	82
“ Represented in Grand Chapter	57	“ Suspensions	47
“ Registrations reported	280	“ Deaths	23
“ Joinings	28	“ Members on the Roll of Chapters	3,285
Total amount of Receipts for the year	\$2,314 16.		

RETURN OF SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS ACCORDING TO LAST RETURN RECEIVED.

NO.	NAME.	WHERE HELD.	NIGHT OF MEETING.	FIRST PRINCIPAL Z.	SCRIBE K.
1	Ancient Fronte's	Kingston	Third Tuesday in Feb., May Aug. & Nov.	Geo. Creeggan.	E. J. B. Pense.
2	The Hiram.	Hamilton	First Monday of every month	F. R. Despard.	F. F. Dalley.
3	St. John's	London	Fourth Wednesday of every month	Jas. O'Conner.	John Siddons.
4	St. Andrew & St. John	Toronto	Third Friday of every month	R. J. Hovenden.	J. P. Clark.
5	St. George's	London	Third Tuesday of every month	R. Lewis.	H. A. Baxter.
6	St. John's	Hamilton	Second Thursday of every month	J. M. Gibson.	Albert Paine.
7	Moir	Belleville	First Tuesday of every month	Alfred Ellis	Wm. Hamilton.
8	King Solomon's	Toronto	Third Monday of every month	J. G. Burns	Jas. Lovell.
9	Golden Rule	Sherbrooke	Tues. on or bef. f. m. in Mar. June, Sep. Dec.	G. H. Borlace	Wm. Farewell.
10	New Brunswick	St. John, N. B.	First Thursday of every month	Henry Duffell	D. L. Stewart.
12	Cataraqui	Kingston	Second Monday in Feb. May, Aug. & Nov.	Rob. Hendry, jr.	F. Rowland.
13	Stadacona	Quebec	Second Thursday in Jan. Apr. July & Oct.	Jas. Gowans	Chas. Fisher.
14	Prevest	Dunham	First Thursday of every month	Stephens Baker.	A. H. J. Gilmour.
15	Wawanosh	Sarnia	Second Friday in Jan. April, July, & Oct.	Wm. Kerr.	H. W. Bennett.
16	Carleton	Ottawa	Second Monday of every month	W. A. Taylor	A. A. Gilmour.
17	Dorchester	Waterloo	First Thursday of every month	A. W. Francis	Jos. Codvill.
18	Oxford	Woodstock	First Friday of every month	E. Goodman	A. L. Riggins.
19	Mount Moriah	St. Catharins.	Friday on or before full moon of each month.	David Curtis	Robt. Morton.
20	Mount Horeb	Brantford	First Wednesday of every month	Isaac H. Stearns	Will. H. White.
21	Carnarvon	Montreal	Third Tuesday in Feb. May, Aug. Nov.	Jas. Stevenson	John Easton.
22	Grenville	Prescott.	First Wednesday in Jan. April, July & Oct.	Chauncey Bennett.	Alex. Dow.
23	Ezra	Simcoe	Second Wednesday of every month	C. T. Campbell	Isaac S. Griswold.
24	Tecumseh	Stratford	Last Tuesday of every month	C. W. Woodford	Robt. B. May.
25	Mount Horeb	Montreal.	Second Wednesday of every month	H. W. Delaney	Chas. Francis.
26	St. Mark's	Trenton	Second Wednesday of every month	Jno. Nettleton	Frank B. Gregory.
27	Manitou	Collingwood	First Friday of every month	M. Gilbranson	John Boyd.
28	Pentalpha	Oshawa	First Friday of every month	Fred. Clark	Robert Nimmo.
29	McCallum	Dunnville	Friday on or after full moon of every month	Isaac F. Toms	Ed. Hosker.
30	Huron	Goderich	First Friday of every month	Donald Ross	A. J. Corkindale.
31	Prince Edward	Pictou	Friday on or after every full moon	J. S. Perrine	Wm. Barracough.
32	Waterloo	Galt	Monday on or after full moon of every month.	G. H. Corbett	J. B. Thompson.
34	Signet	Ollivia	First Tuesday of every month	Geo. Hopkins	E. H. Addison.
35	Keystone	Whitby	Third Thursday of every month	John O'Donnell	J. H. D. Hall.
36	Corinthian	Peterboro'gh	Third Friday of every month	J. H. Helm	Jas Evans.
37	Victoria	Port Hope	Second Thursday of every month	B. F. Kendall	H. S. Broughton
38	Seymour.	Bradford	Friday on or before full moon of every month.		

39	Botsford	Moncton, N. B. Third Monday of every month.....	John L. Harris	K. Allison Doucett.
40	Guelph	Friday on or after every full moon	H. K. Maitland ..	Jos. Mimmack.
41	Harris	First Tuesday after full moon of every month.	C. H. Sorley	F. G. Lewis.
42	Montreal	Second Friday of every month	J. C. Thruston	Chas. E. Torrance.
43	Royal Albert	Third Wednesday in Dec. Mar. June and Oct.	E. M. Copeland ..	W. Miller.
44	Mount Sinai	Wednesday after every full moon	H. L. Geddes	John Cheetham.
45	Excelsior	First Thursday of every month	H. Fred. Sharpe ..	W. A. Bayley.
46	St. James'	Second Wednesday of every month	Thos. C. Macnab ..	W. L. Tackaberry.
47	Wellington	Thursday on or before full moon every month.	J. F. Mallory	Wm. Jek.
48	St. John's	Friday on or before full moon every month ..	Wm. Elliot	W. Gay.
49	Elora	Wednesday after full moon every month	M. Sutherland	J. D. Reid.
50	Saugeen	Second Wed. Jan., Mar., May, July, Sep., Oct.	Jas. Gibson	R. Lawyer.
51	St. Charles'	First Tuesday of every month	Wm. H. McGarvey ..	S. W. Thompson.
52	Prince Rupert	First Thursday of every month	N. S. McCall	Daniel Servos.
53	DeWarrenne	First Tuesday of every month	Geo. A. Clement ..	Robt. Wrightman.
54	Niagara	Thursday after the full moon of every month	Thos. Gordon	Jas. Griffith.
55	Georgian	First Tuesday of every month	Jas. R. Hann	John Guzner.
56	King Hiram	First Thursday of every month	And. Irving, jr	C. W. Lee.
57	Pembroke	First Monday of every month	V. H. Moore	James. Bell,
58	Sussex	Friday on or before full moon of every month.	J. H. Widdifield ..	John McCarter.
59	Doric	First Wednesday of every month	J. F. Kennedy	Wm. Kennedy.
60	Granite	Second Monday of every month	John Fisher	J. Murison Dunn.
61	York	Fourth Thursday of every month	John S. Tennant ..	Geo. Crawford.
62	Havelock	First Monday of every month	Isaac P. Wilson	M. K. Counter.
63	Wilson	Last Wednesday of every month	Thos. F. Blackwood	Geo. Yates.
64	Ontario	Second Wednesday of every month	Alex. Slimmon	Geo. C. Longley.
65	Seaforth	Friday before full moon of every month	Alex. Irvine	Jas. W. Kitchen.
66	Enterprise	Tuesday after full moon of every month	John Drumbille ..	Jas. S. Perrine
67	Maitland	Thursday nearest full moon in Mar., June, September and December	Wm. Forbes	Jas. Suddaby.
68	Grimsby	First Wed. in Jan., Mar., May, July, Sep. & Dec.	Jos. S. Perrine	White.
69	Grand River	First Wednesday after full moon	G. Collier Robbins..	
70	Prince of Wales	First Monday on or before full moon	J. Corlis	
71	Key Stone	Third Friday in every month	N. S. McCall	
72	Erie	First Friday in every month	James Noble	
73	Beaver	Second Tuesday of each month	Wm. Panton	
74	St. Clair	Second Wednesday Jan. alternate months.	Saml. Smith	
75	Mont Nebo	First Friday after full moon	Jas. Wilson	J. A. Slack.
76	Drummondville	Fourth Monday of every month		
77	Occident			

SUSPENSIONS.

NON-PAYMENT OF DUES.

Hiram Chapter, No. 2, Hamilton.

J. S. Fisher.	|	E. Magill.	|	W. J. Jones.
John Hay.		E. Jones.		Thos. Marshall.
Geo. Magill.		E. Burns.		

St. John's Chapter, No. 3, London.

Josiah Nesbit.		Wm. Fradd.
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St. Andrew and St. John's Chapter, No. 4, Toronto.

J. B. Thornton.		Wm. Mathewson.		Robt. Robinson.
W. R. Harris.	|	J. F. C. Ussher	|	S. S. Chisholm.
Thos. Ridout.	|	Edwin Gledhill.	|	Wm. Smellie

King Solomon's Chapter, No. 8, Toronto.

W. D. H. Kennedy.		Michael T. Evans.		Chas. Punchard.
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Carleton Chapter, No. 16, Ottawa.

E. K. McGillivray.

Mount Moriah Chapter, No. 19, St. Catharines.

Wm. McGhie.	|	T. H. Ball.	|	Geo. Flynn.
Jas. Vine.	|	Jas. V. Lepper.	|	R. Thompson.
R. H. McMullin.		Geo. W. Read.		Wm. Higman.

Mount Horeb Chapter, No. 20, Brantford.

Gehazie Carpenter.		Jas. H. Rich.
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Carnarvon Chapter, No. 21, Montreal.

Jas. Taylor.		Jos. Mitchell.
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Mount Horeb Chapter, No. 25, Montreal.

W. J. Crowhurst.		F. C. Hill.		C. W. Hall.
J. H. Douglas.		C. D. Hanson.		

Seymour Chapter No. 38, Bradford.

Jas. McCallum.	|	S. H. Dewart.	|	W. McKay.
Dr. Law.	|	R. Nelson.	|	

EXPULSIONS.

F. Westlake.	|	W. D. McGlochlon.	|	Peter Grant.
J. R. Peel.	|	John H. Ley.	|	Mark Solomon.

RESTORATIONS.

The Hiram Chapter, No. 2, Hamilton.

Thos. Beasley.

St. George's Chapter, No. 5, London.

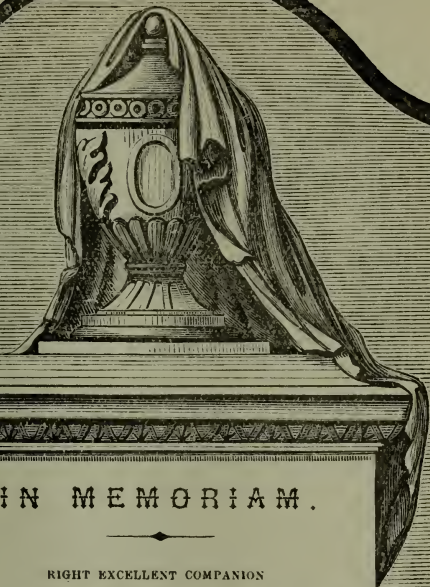
J. H. Flock.

Carleton Chapter, No. 16, Ottawa.

James Wilson.

AT REST.

NAME.	NAME AND NO. OF CHAPTER.	DATE.
Geo. Darling.....	1 Ancient Frontenac.	Nov. 24th ...1875.
Wm. P. Phillips	" "	Aug. 1st ...1775.
T. F. McMullen	5 St. George's	Feb. 23rd...1875.
Thos. Mesenger	6 St. John's	Aug. 13th...1875.
Geo. Russell.....	15 Wawanosh.....	May 2nd ...1775.
W. H. Morrison	16 Carleton	May .....1875.
H. A. Sims	"	June 10th ...1875.
W. J. Simcoe Kerr....	19 Mount Moriah ...	Feb. 18th...1875.
R. M. Wilson	"	May 31st...1875.
Wm. Dutton	20 Mount Horeb	May 31st...1875.
A. R. Sowdon	21 Carnarvon	June 17th...1875.
Chas. Eldridge.....	22 Grenville.	Summer....1875.
Wm. Potter, M.D.....	"	June .....1874.
Jas. A. Johnston.....	34 Signet	Nov 3rd ...1871.
C. E. Ostrander .....	" .....	.....1872.
John Ardagh .....	" .....	.....1872.
And. Moffatt .....	" .....	.....1872.
T. S. Atkinson.....	"	Aug. 31st...1874.
Aaron Rogers	38 Seymour .....	.....1875.
Thos. B. Harris	47 Wellington.....	Aug. 18th ...1874.
John L. Ash.....	"	June 25th...1875.
A. D. Bogart	"	Jan. 20th...1875.
Robt M. Willson	55 Niagara	May 31st...1875.



IN MEMORIAM.

RIGHT EXCELLENT COMPANION

ALDES BERNARD

Past Grand Master,

Past Grand 2nd Principal H.

DIED JULY 4th, A.D. 1876

AT REST.

BEALE, TORONTO

OFFICERS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER, 1876-7.

M. E. Comp.	L. H. Henderson, Belleville,	GrandZ.	} Grand Council.
R. " "	F. J. Menet, Toronto,	" H.	
" " "	*C. L. Beard, Woodstock,	" J.	
" " "	A. G. Smyth, London,	G'd Supt.	London Dist.
" " "	A. W. Francis, Woodstock,	"	Wilson "
" " "	C. L. F. Campbell, Stratford,	"	Huron "
" " "	W. D. Hepburn, Preston,	"	Welling'n "
" " "	Richard Brierly, Hamilton,	"	Hamilton "
" " "	J. B. Neff, Port Colborns,	"	Niagara "
" " "	R. J. Hovenden, Toronto,	"	Toronto "
" " "	J. H. Helm, Port Hope,	"	Ontario "
" " "	W. M. Somerville, Ottawa,	"	Central "
" " "	J. T. McMinn, Montreal,	"	Montreal "
" " "	Dr. H. H. Wood, Knowlton,	"	Eastern "
" " "	H. J. Pratton, Quebec,	"	Quebec "
" " "	J. C. Hathway, St. John, N. B.,	"	New B. "
" " "	W. W. Kennedy, Winnipeg,	"	Manitoba "
" " "	Daniel Spry, Toronto,	Grand Scribe	E.
" " "	F. R. Despard, Hamilton,	"	" N.
" " "	George Creegan, Kingston,	"	Prin. Sojo'r.
" " "	David McLellan, Hamilton,	"	Treasurer.
" " "	Joshua G. Burns, Toronto,	"	Registrar.
V. E.	Isaac Waterman London,	"	1st Asst. Soj'r.
" " "	V. H. Moore, Brockville,	"	2nd " "
" " "	Wm. Kerr, Ottawa,	"	Sword Bearer.
" " "	Geo. Watson, Toronto,	"	Standard "
" " "	John Fisher, Eglington,	"	Dir'tr. of Cer's.
" " "	R. H. Green, Peterboro',	"	Organist.
" " "	S. M. Conger, Picton,	"	Pursuivant.
" " "	James Martin, Montreal,	}	Grand Stewards.
" " "	H. Wood, Cobourg		
" " "	S. S. Lazier, Belleville,		
" " "	J. Corlis, St. Thomas,		

*R. E. Comp. Frank Edgar was elected but declined to accept the office.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

PRESIDENT :

R. E. Comp. F. J. Menet, Toronto.

“ “ “ C. L. Beard, Woodstock.

GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS.

R. E. Comp. A. J. Smyth, London, London District.
 “ “ “ A. W. Francis, Woodstock, Wilson District.
 “ “ “ C. L. T. Campbell, Stratford, Huron District.
 “ “ “ W. D. Hepburn, Preston, Wellington District.
 “ “ “ Rich. Brierley, Hamilton, Hamilton District.
 “ “ “ J. B. Neff, Port Colborne, Niagara District.
 “ “ “ R. J. Hovenden, Toronto, Toronto District.
 “ “ “ J. H. Helm, Port Hope, Ontario District.
 “ “ “ Alfred Ellis, Belleville, Prince Edward District.
 “ “ “ W. M. Somerville, Ottawa, Central District.
 “ “ “ J. T. McMinn, Montreal, Montreal District.
 “ “ “ Dr. H. W. Wood, Knowlton, Eastern T's. District.
 “ “ “ W. W. Kennedy, Winnipeg, Manitoba District.
 “ “ “ Daniel Spry, Scribe E., Toronto, *ex officio*.
 “ “ “ F. R. Despard, Scribe N., Hamilton, *ex officio*.

ELECTED BY GRAND CHAPTER.

R. E. Comp.	J. B. Nixon,	Toronto.
“ “ “	Henry Robertson,	Collingwood.
“ “ “	H. Macpherson,	Owen Sound.
R. “ “	W. H. Weller,	Cobourg.
“ “ “	W. Carey,	London.

REPRESENTATIVES

IN THE GRAND CHAPTER OF CANADA.

M. E. Comp.	T. D. Harington, from Grand Chapter of Tennessee.		
" "	T. D. Harington,	" "	Nova Scotia.
" "	T. D. Harington,	" "	California.
" "	James Seymour,	" "	Indiana.
R. "	James K. Kerr,	" "	Scotland.
" "	David McLellan,	" "	Georgia.
" "	R. Ramsay,	" "	Nebraska.
" "	R. Ramsay,	" "	Ohio.
" "	R. Ramsay,	" "	Illinois.
" "	Henry Robertson,	" "	Dis. of Col.
" "	Henry Robertson,	" "	New York.
" "	Henry Robertson,	" "	Mississippi.
" "	W. J. B. McLeod Moore,	" "	Missouri.
" "	Daniel Spry,	" "	New Jersey.
" "	E. M. Copeland,	" "	Texas.
M. "	C. D. Macdonnell,	" "	S. Carolina
R. "	W. H. Weller,	" "	Wisconsin.
" "	Henry Macpherson,	" "	California.
" "	A. A. Stevenson,	" "	Massachus'ts
" "	I. H. Stearns,	" "	N. Hampsh'e

FROM THE GRAND CHAPTER OF CANADA.

M. E. Comp.	W. H. McIlhanney, in Grand Chapter of New Jersey.		
R. "	John Laurie,	" "	Scotland.
" "	George S. Blackie,	" "	Tennessee.
" "	George F. Gouley,	" "	Missouri.
" "	H. P. Deuel,	" "	Nebraska.
" "	Chas. A. Woodward,	" "	Ohio.
" "	John S. Bowen,	" "	New York.
" "	William Brinsmaid,	" "	Vermont.
" "	John Edwin Mason, M.D.	" "	Dist. of Col.
" "	James A. Miles,	" "	Illinois.
" "	W. H. Tuller,	" "	Georgia.
" "	Arthur Fletcher,	" "	Nova Scotia.
" "	Louis Wiggin,	" "	California.
" "	Richard D. Pulford,	" "	Wisconsin.
M. "	— Kimball,	" "	Massachus'ts
" "	A. H. Bartley,	" "	Mississippi.
" "	Frederick Binckes, Mark Lodge,	" "	England.

GRAND CHAPTERS AND ADDRESSES OF GRAND OFFICERS.

GRAND CHAPTERS	GRAND HIGH PRIESTS.	GRAND SECRETARIES.	CHAIRMEN COM. CORRESPONDENCE.
Alabama, Arkansas, California, Canada, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Dis of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Nova Scotia, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Gen. Grand Chap.	Myles J. Greene, Loachapoka. Samuel W. Williams, Little Rock. W. T. Reynolds, San Francisco. L. H. Henderson, Belleville. W. N. Byers, Denver. Edmund Tweedy, Danbury. Willis Holden, Wilmington. Geo. B. Clark, Washington. Henry W. Long, Cotton Plant. Luther J. Glen, Atlanta. Wm. A. J. Delancy, Centralia. Lucretia A. Foote, Crawfordsville. Horace S. Winslow, Newton. Thos. J. Anderson, Topeka. Jas. A. Beattie, Louisville. Samuel J. Powell, St. Francisville. Henry L. Paine, Portland. James W. Bowers, Baltimore. John W. Dadmun, Winthrop. John L. Mitchell, Jackson. Samuel J. Prentiss, St. Paul. John Y. Murray, Ripley. Chas. F. Leavitt, Springfield. Charles F. Goodman, Omaha. Wm. Barrett, Nashua. Fred. G. Wiese, Bordenstown. Joseph B. Chaffee, Binghamton. Thos. W. Dewey, Charlottte. Stephen R. Sireom, Halifax. Reuben C. Lemon, Toledo. James R. Ballie, Corvallis. A. Rebeno, Jr., Masonic Tem., Phila. Francello, G. Jillson, Woonsocket. A. T. Smythe, Charleston. Wilber F. Foster, Nashville. W. F. Swain, Galveston. John W. Clark, Montpelier. B. M. Harris, Richmond. Thomas H. Logan, Wheeling. J. H. Evans, Platteville.	Daniel Sayre, Montgomery. Luke E. Barber, Little Rock. Chas. L. Wiggitt, San Francisco. Daniel Spry, Toronto. Ed. C. Parmelee, Georgetown. Jos. K. Wheeler, Hartford. J. P. Allmond, Wilmington. C. W. Haneock, Washington. DeWitt C. Dawkins, Jacksonville. J. E. Blackshear, Macon. James H. Miles, Chicago. J. M. Bramwell, Indianapolis. W. B. Langridge, Muscatine. Frasmus T. Carr, Leavenworth. J. P. H. Branham, Louisville. James C. Batchelor, New Orleans. Ira Berry, Portland. William. A. Wentz, Baltimore. Z. H. Thomas, Jr., Boston. William P. Innes, Grand Rapids. A. T. C. Pierson, St. Paul. J. L. Power, Jackson. Geo. F. Gouley, St. Louis. William R. Bowen, Omaha. John A. Harris, Concord. Thos. J. Corson, Trenton. Christopher G. Fox, Buffalo. D. W. Bain, Raleigh. James Gossip, Halifax. James Nesbit, Troy. R. P. Farhart, Salem. J. Thomason, Masonic Temple, Phila. Geo. H. Burnham, Providence. Myer B. Moses, Sumter. John Frizzell, Nashville. Robert Brewster, Houston. W. H. S. Whitcomb, Burlington. John Dove, Richmond. Odell S. Long, Wheeling. J. W. Woodhull, Berlin. C. G. Fox, Buffalo.	Palmer J. Pillans, Mobile. Chas. L. Wiggins, San Francisco. Henry Robertson, Collingwood. John N. Lewis, 20 Nassau St., N. Y. E. B. MacGrotty, Washington. John S. Driggs, Jacksonville. James H. Miles, Chicago. Martin H. Rice, Indianapolis. E. A. Gilbert, Dubuque. Erastmus T. Carr, Leavenworth. H. A. M. Henderson, Frankfort. Wm. Ritchie Whitaker, New Orleans. J. H. Drummond, Portland. Hermion L. Emmmons, Jr., Baltimore. Alfred F. Chapman, Boston. Wm. P. Innes, Grand Rapids. A. T. C. Pierson, St. Paul. H. W. Walter, Holly Springs. Geo. F. Gouley, St. Louis. Daniel H. Wheeler, Plattsmouth. John J. Bell, Exeter. Thos. J. Corson, Trenton. Darius A. Ogden, Penn Yan. James Southgate, Hillsboro. James Gossip, Halifax. Wm. Buechner, Youngstown. T. McF. Patton, Salem. W. J. Kelly, Masonic Temple, Phila. Geo. H. Burnham Providence. Myer B. Moses, Sumter. John Fizzle, Nashville. R. M. Elgin, Houston, J. M. Poland, Montpelier. W. B. Isaacs, Richmond. Odell S. Long, Wheeling. J. P. C. Cottrill, Milwaukee.

ERRATA.

REPORT ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

- Page 75, line 23, "Gilbert," should be "Guilbert."
- | | | | | |
|--------|-------|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| " 79, | " 32, | " be " | " " | " of." |
| " 91, | " 19, | " sixth " | " " | " third." |
| " 91, | " 21, | " eighth " | " " | " fifth." |
| " 97, | " 18, | "considerable" | " " | " commendable." |
| " 104, | " 29, | " cautiously " | " " | " copiously." |
| " 107, | " 36, | " the " | " " | " a." |
| " 108, | " 19, | " inhabitant " | " " | " inhabit." |
| " 110, | " 10, | " exercise " | " " | " exorcise." |
| " 110, | " 18, | insert "felt" after "have." | | |
| " 110, | " 34, | " at " | should be "and." | |

APPENDIX.

REPORT

—ON—

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE

FOR 1876.

*To the M. E. Grand Z., and the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch
Masons of Canada :*

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence herewith present the following Report, on the transactions of the various Grand Chapters, which have been placed in their hands for review.

For the present year, the Proceedings received number twenty-six. These have been carefully perused, and extracts will be given, which we consider interesting, or worthy of note or comment.

It is also intended to continue the practice, which was commenced last year, of having the Report in print in advance of the meeting of Grand Chapter, as this plan appears to have met with the approval of the Companions.

We will also continue our Table, giving the date and place of meeting of the different Grand Chapters, and the names of the Officers as these particulars appear in the volumes before us; and the Proceedings will then be noticed in the customary alphabetical order.

GRAND CHAPTERS REVIEWED IN 1876.

ANN. CONV.	NAME.	WHERE HELD.	DATE.	GRAND HIGH PRIEST.	GRAND SECRETARY.
Org.	Colorado	Denver	May 11, 1875	W. N. Byers	Ed. C. Parmelee.
77th	Connecticut	New Haven	May 11, 1875	Edmund Tweedy	Jos. K. Wheeler.
8th	Delaware	Wilmington	Jan. 19, 1876	Willis Holden	J. P. Allmond.
9th	Dist. Columbia	Washington	Nov. 19, 1875	George B. Clark	L. G. Stephens.
...	Georgia	Macon	Apr. 28, 1875	Luther J. Glenn	J. Emmett Blackshear.
26th	Illinois	Chicago	Oct. 28, 1875	Haswell C. Clarke	James H. Miles.
30th	Indiana	Indianapolis	Oct. 20, 1875	Lucien A. Foote	John M. Bramwell.
22nd	Iowa	Keokuk	Oct. 21, 1875	Horace S. Winslow	Wm. B. Langridge.
11th	Kansas	Topeka	Oct. 19, 1875	Thos. J. Anderson	Erasmus T. Carr.
60th	Kentucky	Louisville	Oct. 18, 1875	James A. Beattie	Jos. H. Branham.
29th	Louisiana	New Orleans	Feb. 15, 1876	Samuel J. Powell	Jas. C. Batchelor.
50th	Maine	Portland	May 4, 1875	Henry L. Paine	Ira. Berry.
...	Maryland	Baltimore	Nov. 8, 1875	H. L. Emmons, Jr.	Wm. A. Wentz.
...	Massachusetts	Boston	Dec. 7, 1875	Alfred F. Chapman	Z. H. Thomas, Jr.
27th	Michigan	Detroit	Jan. 10, 1876	William Brown	Wm. P. Innes.
14th	Minnesota	St. Paul	Oct. 12, 1875	Sam. J. Prentiss	A. T. C. Pierson.
27th	Mississippi	Meridian	Feb. 4, 1875	John Y. Murry	J. L. Power.
28th	Mississippi	Jackson	Jan. 31, 1876	Harvey W. Walter	J. L. Power.
29th	Missouri	St. Louis	Oct. 7, 1875	Chas. F. Leavitt	Geo. Frank Gouley.
...	New Hampshire	Concord	May 18, 1875	John D. Patterson	John A. Harris.
19th	New Jersey	Trenton	Sept. 8, 1875	Fred. G. Wiese	Thomas J. Corson.
79th	New York	Albany	Feb. 1, 1876	Jos. B. Chaffee	C. G. Fox.
27th	North Carolina	Raleigh	June 7, 1875	Thos. W. Dewey	Donald W. Bain.
6th	Nova Scotia	Halifax	June 1, 1875	Stephen R. Sircom	James Gossip.
58th	Ohio	Dayton	Sept. 9, 1874	J. Kelly O'Neill	James Nesbitt.
59th	Ohio	Put-in-Bay	Sept. 8, 1875	Reuben C. Lemmon	James Nesbitt.
...	South Carolina	Charleston	Feb. 9, 1875	Augustine T. Smythe	Myer B. Moses.
59th	Vermont	Burlington	Sept. 29, 1875	Edward S. Dana	Wm. H. S. Whitecomb.

COLORADO.

The organization of the new Grand Chapter of Colorado, appears to have been regular in all respects, and we gladly welcome this latest arrival to our fraternal band.

The convention to organize, was held at Denver, on May 11th, 1875. M. E. Comp. W. N. Byers, the proxy of the G. G. H. P., read his commission and authority to institute the Grand Chapter, and install the Officers.

After the Committee on Credentials had reported, a committee was appointed to draft a constitution.

On the second day, a constitution was adopted, officers were elected and installed, and the organization declared complete. The Constitution fully acknowledges the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter, U. S., and promises obedience thereto.

M. E. Comp. Wm. N. Byers, was elected G. H. P. and R. E. Comp. E. C. Parmelee, G. Secretary.

We are glad to notice that one of their first acts was the appointment of a Committee on Foreign Correspondence, with Comp. Parmelee as chairman.

Sixty days were granted to subordinate Chapters, to surrender their charters, and obtain new ones.

Five Chapters took part in these proceedings, with a membership of about 300. We are not informed whether there are any other Chapters in the jurisdiction.

CONNECTICUT.

Through the kindness of Bro. Joseph K. Wheeler, Grand Secretary, we have been favored with a volume of "Records of Capitular Masonry in the State of Connecticut," with a brief history of the early Chapters, and the Proceedings of the Grand Chapter, from its organization in 1798. The work is compiled by Comp. Wheeler, and is very interesting.

We find in the address of Comp. Edmund Tweedy, G. H. P.,

that he refused all applications for dispensations to ballot and confer degrees within the time prescribed by law.

He is in favor of the General Grand Chapter, and of retaining its present constitution, substantially unchanged. One proposed amendment, he views "with particular disfavor." It contemplates making Past High Priests members of Grand Chapters. This amendment is generally supposed to be a good one, and that its adoption will have a beneficial effect. This rule has always been a part of our Canadian Constitution, and our experience is very decidedly in favor of its continuance.

He argues in favor of Reports on Foreign Correspondence, as follows :—

"It has been suggested as a measure of economy that the report of the Committee on Correspondence should not be printed with our proceedings. I should consider the adoption of such a suggestion a serious error. I regard the work that is being done by these committees of the several Grand Chapters of great value to the Craft, and deserving of better encouragement than it sometimes receives. To it, more than to anything else, are we indebted for greater conformity of legislation, a correct interpretation of the principles of Masonic Law, and a general diffusion of information respecting matters of Royal Arch history and government. By it we are brought into a more intimate knowledge of the thought and actions of our Companions of every jurisdiction, and are made to realize more fully our mutual dependence and identity of interests. It tends also to prevent crudeness and laxity in matters of legislation and government. The consciousness that the work which we are doing here to-day is to be submitted to the candid criticism of some of the best minds and ablest pens to be found among the Craft, will naturally induce our best efforts to make that work such as to command the approval of all intelligent Companions. It is true that the reports of some of these committees are not themselves above criticism. But who among us is perfect? As a rule, they are worthy of high praise; and I am glad of this opportunity to record my appreciation of the labors of these Companions, who, in many cases, at great sacrifice to their personal interests, have given freely of their time and talents for the general good. The General Grand High Priest, in alluding to the death of Companion William Storer, said that his "reports on Correspondence gave him and his Grand Chapter a national reputation"—a reputation which I am sure has been fully sustained by his successors. We

should fail in our duty to ourselves and to the Companions of other jurisdictions, and do great injustice to our committee (inasmuch as his report can reach the Companions in no other way,) if we dispensed with the usual publication. The cost is fully justified by the value of the work."

He does not believe in the present system of Representatives ; thinks it is not only unnecessary but hurtful, and that its origin and support are due to the "love of title and position," the bane of Masonry.

The proceedings were entirely of local interest. No grievances.

Comp. John N. Lewis has a capital Report on Foreign Correspondence, in which our proceedings for 1874 receive large attention. Of Comp. Harris, he says :—

"Companion Harris' name and fame, as a just and upright man and Mason, was not confined to the limits of the Dominion ; and the news of his decease called forth a throb of pain and sympathy from many a heart on this side of the line."

We had occasion in 1874 to criticize Comp. Lewis, in his use of the word "prerogative," and in reply, after quoting our remarks, he proceeds to touch us up gently in this wise :—

"Now all this is neither fair reasoning nor sound logic. It proceeds upon the assumption that we either did not know the meaning of the words we used or handled our pen with reprehensible carelessness. Will Companion R. please take notice that when we wrote "prerogative" and "interpretation," we both knew the meaning of the words used and meant exactly what they mean.

The "fallacy" in his argument is that it proceeds upon the assumption that Capitular Masonry is solely the offspring of legislation—the creature of constitutional enactment, and has no unwritten "Common Law" (if we may be permitted the expression).

We indicated our views in this connection pretty fully on page ninety-seven of our report last year, and respectfully refer all interested to what we then and there said. We will only add that, by analogy, the second and third officers of the Chapter have the same prerogatives as are incident to the Wardens in the Craft Lodge. We hold these prerogatives to be a part of the Common Law of Masonry—"Landmarks," which cannot be given nor taken away by statute ; as,

likewise, the right to demand a ballot upon the advancement of any candidate for any degree, at any time before he is obligated. We do not presume to enact Masonic Common Law in Connecticut ; we sometimes do try to interpret it.

We now think the "rule" that a First Principal must be an installed Master or Past Master, is objectionable and fatally so, as it is liable to work a conflict with one of the Ancient Landmarks ; and are forced to withdraw our recommendation of it to your careful consideration—not our strong approval, as Companion Robertson puts it—and join in the recommendation of R. : E. : Companion Spry, late Grand Superintendent of the Toronto District, and at present second on the Executive Committee of the G. : C. : of Canada :

'If this clause of the Constitution has an injurious effect upon the proper working of the Chapters, if it is likely to close some of the Chapters, as it has nearly done in more than one instance, by all means let it be repealed.' "

In attempting to defend his position, Comp. Lewis only succeeds in getting himself into more trouble. He certainly shows himself quite ignorant of what a "*Landmark*" really is. And the unwritten custom or "Common Law" of Masonry, is directly *opposed* to his contention. By the "old law," the Wardens had no right, or "prerogative," to fill the Master's chair in his absence or death, but the same was taken, as of right, by the Immediate Past Master, and in his absence by the oldest Past Master present. If no Past Master was present, the Lodge could not be opened. It is only by "statute," or by a provision in the constitution that Wardens have now the right to fill the vacancy, and when this right was first given to them, it was only, that the Senior Warden should act as Master, in summoning the Lodge, until the next election of Officers. He could not "rule the Lodge," except no former Master was present.

There is no fallacy in our argument. We did not assume "that Capitular Masonry is solely the offspring of legislation," (although if we had said so, we would not have been so very far wrong—at all events so far as anything outside of the degrees is concerned ;) and the "analogy" of Comp. Lewis, between the second and third Principals of a Chapter, and the Wardens of a Lodge, will bring him directly to admit the converse of his statement, that is, that

it is *not* the “prerogative” of the second officer to succeed.

The rule that a First Principal must be a Master or Past Master, is not at all objectionable, nor is it liable to work a conflict with one of the ancient Landmarks. On the contrary, it is strictly in accord (by analogy,) with the “Common Law.” The Royal Arch is a part of the Third Degree; no one but an Installed Master can confer the Third Degree, therefore no one but an Installed Master should be allowed to confer the Royal Arch. Comp. Lewis should make himself well acquainted with Masonic “Common Law” before venturing to interpret it. His attempted manufacture of it, will hardly succeed in this case.

As to his quotation from the report of Comp. Spry; Comp. Lewis should have quoted the whole paragraph; if he had done so, it would have been found, *not* in his favor; as the “Clause of the Constitution” referred to by Comp. Spry, is one, that forbids the election to the office of Second Principal, of any one who has not served as Third Principal; and it has no reference whatever, to the rule, that the First Principal must be an Installed Master.

DELAWARE.

Comp. Willis S. Holden, G. H. P., delivered a brief address. He reports peace and harmony prevailing. He decided, (correctly) that a Companion could not be suspended for non-payment of dues, without due trial.

All Past Grand Chaplains, were made permanent members of Grand Chapter.

The following was adopted:—

“Resolved, That a Subordinate Chapter may suspend a companion for non-payment of dues without a trial, and without implying masonic censure, and that in such case the payment of such dues in itself reinstates him in his Chapter.”

The latter part is correct, but we consider the first part extremely harsh and unjust. We do not believe in inflicting any punishment, without giving the accused a fair trial.

At the election, the G. H. P. decided that none but voters in Grand Chapter, were eligible to elective offices.

It also appears, by the rules of this jurisdiction, that officers being re-elected, do not require to be installed.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Comp. N. D. Larner, G. H. P., reports having visited all the subordinate Chapters. His decision on the following point was quite correct :—

“The only question I have been called upon to decide during the year was the following, presented to me for decision by an officer of one of the Chapters, viz :

“Can a Chapter confer the Past Master’s Degree upon a Brother who has been elected Master of his Lodge, but who is not a candidate for the Degrees in the Chapter ?”

This question I unhesitatingly answered in the negative. In so deciding, Companions, I was fully aware that I was annulling the practice which has always prevailed in our jurisdiction without being questioned ; at the same time, being fully convinced of the correctness of my views upon the question stated, I decided it according to what I believed to be the correct rule, and now report it to you for such action as you may consider necessary.”

We also extract from his address the following paragraph :—

“Companions : On the 26th of November, 1873, I addressed a communication to the Grand Z. : of the Grand Chapter of Canada, wherein I requested, for reasons which will be presented to you this evening, that he revoke the commission of the Grand Representative of his Grand Chapter near our Grand Chapter. This request has not been complied with, although the Grand Chapter of Canada directed that it should be complied with. Under the circumstances I have deemed it advisable to have presented to you all the correspondence which has been had on this subject for your information and such action as you may deem necessary in the premises. The right of your Grand High Priest to make the request will not, I suppose, be questioned for a moment by any Companion who is familiar with the Representative system, and I am sure that the failure on the part of the Grand Z. : of Canada to comply with the request made will be looked upon as an act of disrespect to this Grand Chapter. The present Grand Z. : of Canada addressed a letter to our Grand Secretary on this subject a few days ago, (not to your Grand High Priest,) and as he requests that it should be presented to you, I have requested our

Committee on Correspondence to insert it, together with all other correspondence on this subject, in their report, to which I refer you. At the same time, I addressed a similar communication to the Grand High Priest of Nova Scotia, the same Companion being the Representative of that Grand Chapter also. No action having been taken by him in relation to the subject, I have also had inserted in the report of the Committee on Correspondence the correspondence had with the Grand High Priest of Nova Scotia on this subject, by which it will be seen that I was requested by him to give my reasons for making the request. This request, of course, I did not comply with."

The report of Comp. Jos. S. McCoy, Grand Visitor and Lecturer, is as follows:—

"My visitations to the several constituent Chapters during the past year have been exceedingly pleasant, affording, as they have, the gratification of witnessing a very superior grade of work by the officers of those Chapters.

I aver, with pleasure, that both in attendance at the general schools of instruction, as well as at the special Chapter schools held during the year, they have shown an interest and determination to acquire a thorough knowledge of the ritual pleasurably in advance of my anticipations, and I express not only the hope but conviction that my successor will find the same laudable pride exhibited by the newly elected and appointed officers, and that their government and work will vie with that of their predecessors in office. To achieve this standard, however, I most earnestly urge upon the M.: E.: High Priests of the several Chapters the necessity of having their officers present and continue their attendance at the schools of instruction so that entire harmony in work and ritual shall prevail throughout the jurisdiction."

M. E. Comp. Larner submitted to the Grand Chapter, in detail, his reasons for requesting the revocation of the commission of Comp. John E. Mason, as Grand Representative from the Grand Chapters of Canada and Nova Scotia near the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia.

Comp. J. H. Jochum offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:—

"Resolved, As the sense of this Grand Chapter, that the M.: E.: Grand High Priest has the undoubted right to request the revocation of a commission of a Representative of a foreign Grand Body."

Comp. J. S. McCoy moved that the question of the conduct of the Grand Chapter of Canada towards this Grand Chapter be referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, with instructions to report at the Convocation to consider the constitution, which was adopted.

Comp. J. E. F. Holmead, from the Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom was referred the question of the conduct of the Grand Chapter of Canada towards this Grand Chapter, in neglecting to revoke the commission of its Grand Representative, when requested to do so, presented the following report :—

“Your Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom was referred the question of the conduct of the Grand Chapter of Canada toward this Grand Chapter, concerning the request of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of this Grand Chapter to have the commission of R. : E. : Comp. J. E. Mason, Representative of the Grand Chapter of Canada, revoked, beg leave to report that they have had the subject under consideration, and after a careful review of the case as presented in the papers submitted to your committee, respectfully submit the following as the result of their deliberations :

By the action of this Grand Chapter at its last Convocation, in adopting a resolution declaring that the Most Excellent Grand High Priest had the right to make the request to have the commission of R. : E. : Comp. Mason revoked, it effectually disposed of all questions as to the powers of the Grand High Priest during the interim between the sessions of this Grand Body ; and the right to make the request having been established, this right must carry with it the right of a respectful consideration, and also puts your committee beyond the pale of inquiry as to the merits of the case.

This relieves your committee from the consideration of what might have been a very embarrassing question ; and it is gratifying to your committee to be able to state that it appears from the correspondence submitted to us that the Grand Z. of the Grand Chapter of Canada is in full accord with our Grand Chapter upon the question of the right to make this request. We quote from the letter of the G. : S. : E. : of the Grand Chapter of Canada under date of March 4th, 1874, in reply to the letter of our Most Excellent Grand High Priest of November 26th, 1873, as follows : “Under ordinary circumstances he (meaning the Grand Z.) would feel himself warranted in exercising the prerogative of his office by at once cancelling the commission of our

representative," thereby admitting that he has the right, but under what he thinks extraordinary circumstances he declines to exercise it; thus, as it seems to us, making himself not only the judge of the merits of the controversy, but acting upon what he deems to be the justice of the case.

Both Grand Bodies therefore being in full accord as to the right to request that this Representative be recalled, it only remains to be seen whether the circumstances of this case are of that extraordinary character to justify the Grand Z. of the Grand Chapter of Canada in denying this request.

What are the circumstances of this case? From the papers submitted to your committee, (and from these we gather all the information we have on the subject upon which we can act,) it appears that on the 26th day of November, 1873, the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia addressed a letter to the Most Excellent Grand Z. of the Grand Chapter of Canada, preferring a request in the following language: "The personal relations existing between your Grand Representative near the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia and myself, being of such a character as to prohibit intercourse between him and myself, I am therefore, much to my regret, compelled to request that his commission be revoked."

It will be seen by referring to another portion of this letter that this request was not made until after consultation with the Deputy Grand High Priest and the members of the Grand Council and other prominent Royal Arch Masons. We quote as follows :

'I have, after consultation with our Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe, and other Companions, concluded to make official request of you for the revocation of his commission as your Grand Representative.'

Now, laying aside all that portion of this letter relating to the fact that Companion Mason has never held a higher position in a Chapter than Secretary, and that he is not a member of this Grand Chapter, (for all these things were known to this Grand Body when it confirmed his appointment,)—we say, laying aside all these general objections, yet there remains sufficient grounds set forth in this letter, in the opinion of your committee, to call for prompt and immediate action on the part of the Grand Z. of the Grand Chapter of Canada; for, as we have before stated, we lay aside entirely the merits of the controversy between the Most Excellent Grand High Priest and the Representative of the Grand Chapter of Canada as a subject with which neither our

Grand Chapter nor the Grand Z. of the Grand Chapter of Canada had any thing to do, so far as the making or granting of this request was concerned. It was enough that the personal relation existing between the Executive of this Grand Body and the Representative were such as to prevent official intercourse, as stated in the letter above referred to. The particular acts complained of are not set forth either in this letter or in the papers submitted to your committee; and if they were we could not enter into the merits of the difficulty which has arisen between the parties to make it necessary for the Grand High Priest of this Grand Chapter to make this request. That is not within the province of your committee. We have to do with principles, not with individuals; that is a subject of inquiry which belongs exclusively to the Grand Chapter of Canada, after the request has been complied with. R. : E. : Comp. Mason is their Representative and not ours, and he is responsible to the body whose representative he is for his official conduct. We speak now of his official conduct in his representative capacity; not that Companion Mason might not be subject to discipline by the Chapter to which he belongs in this jurisdiction for a Masonic offense, the same as though he were not a Representative of a foreign Grand Body, but the complaint is made against him in his representative capacity, and it is enough for the home government to know that their Representative is distasteful and obnoxious to the Executive of the body or government to which he is sent, and it is not the duty of this Grand Body to prefer charges against the Representative and examine into the merits of the controversy; but the moment that the fact that this Representative has become obnoxious to the Executive of this Grand Body, he should have been recalled and the causes inquired into, if at all, by the Grand Body who sent him here. Companion Mason stands here in the same position precisely as though he was a citizen of Canada, and a member of a Royal Arch Chapter in Canada, and sent here to represent the Grand Body of that Dominion and to look after her interests here. And what interests has the Grand Chapter of Canada here that can be promoted or protected by having a Representative resident here?

We answer, she has the interests and welfare of the institution throughout the world committed to her care and keeping, and it is to preserve that harmony and that fraternal feeling which should characterize sister Grand Bodies throughout the world, and upon which the usefulness and existence of the institution depends, that one Grand Body accredits to another some person clothed with authority to speak and act for them in all matters which may affect the interests or friendly relations of the two bodies or governments. The same objects are to be accomplished and the same purposes and interests are to be sub-

served as in the appointment of ambassadors between two nations, and it is the invariable rule whenever a representative makes himself obnoxious to the Executive of the government or nation to whom he is accredited, and that fact is made known to his government officially, to withdraw him at once without inquiry into the causes which lie at the bottom of the difficulty. We might cite numerous cases within our own knowledge which have transpired where our own government have been a party, but we do not deem it necessary. Every intelligent Mason must at once see that where the personal relations of the Representative and the Executive are such as to prohibit official intercourse between them, that no good can be accomplished by his stay, and the purpose and object of his mission is at an end ; hence, the fact stated by the Grand Z. of the Grand Chapter of Canada, that no charges had been preferred against their Representative did not make the request of our Grand High Priest an extraordinary one, so as to take the case out of the operation of the rule requiring him to exercise the prerogative of his office, which he admits he has, to immediately recall his Representative.

In conclusion, your committee are frank to say that they find no precedent in the history of Capitular Masonry to enlighten or aid them in their deliberations on this subject ; but they believe that the system of accrediting representatives to Masonic Grand Bodies has taken its rise from the custom among civilized nations from the earliest ages of the world, and we see no reason why the universal custom which governs nations in their intercourse with each other should not be applied to Masonic Grand Bodies, so far as the cases are analogous, and we are unable to see that in the case before us the analogy is not complete.

Your committee are therefore of the opinion that the Grand Z. of the Grand Chapter of Canada, in refusing to exercise the prerogative of his office in cancelling the commission of their Representative upon the request of the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, in letter under date of November 26th 1873, and especially after the Grand Body over whom he presided had adopted a resolution recommending that it be done, did not treat the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia with that respect and consideration due from one Grand Masonic Body to another."

Comp. Joseph S. McCoy offered the following as a substitute for the report of the committee ; which was rejected :—

"RESOLVED, That the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence be recommitted to it with instructions to examine into and investigate

the charges preferred against Comp. John Edwin Mason, Grand Representative of Canada, by the M. : E. : G. : High Priest of this Grand Chapter, in his letter of November, 1873, to the Grand Zerrubbabel of Canada, and that the said committee be directed to report at the June Convocation of this Grand Chapter what action, if any, should be taken by it to vindicate its dignity ; and to secure a knowledge of the matter at issue, that said committee be authorised, and are hereby empowered to review the entire correspondence between the G. : H. : P. : of this Jurisdiction on the one side, and the Grand Z. of Canada—including the action had by the Grand Chapter of Canada—on the other, to the end that no premature or ill-advised action be had by this Grand Chapter which might imperil its present cordial relations with the Grand Chapter of Canada.”

The report of the committee was then adopted.

Comp. Jos. S. McCoy objected to the report of the committee, as not covering the scope of his motion.

The Grand Chapter of Colorado, was recognised.

Comp. E. B. MacGrotty, in his review of Canada for 1874, gives some other letters regarding the recall of Comp. Mason, which we here copy ; and as he leaves them without comment, so do we ; except to say that we are confident there was no intention to treat the Grand Chapter of the District, in any other manner than with the most fraternal respect and consideration.

“As this matter has now gone forth to the Masonic world through the pages of the report of the Grand Chapter of Canada, and as some of the Reports on Foreign Correspondence of other Grand Chapters contain allusions to it, giving a portion of the correspondence, in order that a proper understanding of the matter may be had, we give the whole correspondence a place in this report.”

[No, 1.]

WASHINGTON, January 1, 1874.

R. : E. : C. D. MACDONNELL, Grand Z. :

R. : E. : COMP.—On the 26th of November last, I addressed a communication to Comp. Harman, your predecessor, not being aware at the time of your election as Grand Z. :, in relation to your Grand Representative near the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, a copy of which I herewith enclose. As I have not received an answer to my communication, I write to know whether Comp. Harman transmitted the same to you or not. An early reply is respectfully requested.

With my best wishes for yourself and the Grand Chapter over which you preside,

I remain yours truly and fraternally,

NOBLE D. LARNER,

G.: High Priest of Grand Chapter of District of Columbia.

[No. 2.]

GRAND CHAPTER OF CANADA, OFFICE OF THE GRAND Z.:,

Peterborough, Ont., Canada, January 8th, 1874.

NOBLE D. LARNER, Esq.,

Grand High Priest, of the Grand Chapter, District of Columbia,

Washington, D. of C.

Most Excellent Sir and Companion,—

Yours of the 1st instant came to hand to-day, and I lose no time in replying to the same. Your letter dated November 26th, 1873, addressed to my predecessor, Most Excellent Companion S. B. HARMAN, Past Grand Z.: of the Grand Chapter of Canada, was by him duly forwarded to me,—by me received on the 9th December, 1873, and on the same day I directed the Grand Scribe E.: to acknowledge the receipt of same. I have now to apologise for the neglect in replying to your letter, and to express my regret that so necessary an act of courtesy should have been omitted. I have this day taken final action in the matter, (of which you will be duly notified,) which action, I hope, will be satisfactory to yourself, as well as the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia.

With every good wish for yourself personally, and the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, over which you preside,

Believe me to remain, dear sir and M.: E.: Companion,

Yours very truly and fraternally,

CHARLES D. MACDONNELL, Grand Z.:

“ M.: E.: Grand High Priest Larner, not having received any information of the action taken, as stated in the foregoing letter, dated January 8, 1874, addressed another communication to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Canada, asking for information in regard to it, and to which he received the following reply :”

GRAND CHAPTER OF CANADA, OFFICE OF THE GRAND SCRIBE E.:

Hamilton, Ont , March 4th, 1874.

NOBLE D. LARNER, Esq., Grand High Priest,

Grand Chapter, District of Columbia :

DEAR SIR AND M.: E.: COMPANION—Circumstances beyond my control have occurred, which have of necessity caused me to put off addressing to you a communication, as directed by our M.: E.: Grand Z.: on the 17th January last on the subject of our Representative at the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, which has, I am given to understand, been the subject of some correspondence between yourself and the past and present Grand First Principal Z.: of this Grand Chapter.

I have now the honor, under instructions of the M.: E.: Grand Z.:, to state in regard to your desire for the cancelment of the credentials of our Representative, R.: E.: Comp. JOHN E. MASON, at the Grand Chapter of the District of

Columbia, that under ordinary circumstances he would feel himself warranted in exercising the prerogative of his office, by at once cancelling the commission of our Representative; but, after mature consideration, and in the absence of any charge of irregularity or misconduct on his part, the M. E. Grand Z. does not see his course clear to revoke the deliberate act of one of his predecessors, performed on best recommendation and subsequently ratified and confirmed by our Grand Chapter in annual Convocation, and our said Representative having been received and recognized by your Grand Chapter.

The M. E. Grand Z. has therefore arrived at the determination of referring the whole matter to the Grand Chapter at its next annual Convocation to deal with the subject in such manner as in its wisdom it may deem proper.

I have the honor to remain, dear sir and M. E. Companion,

Yours truly and fraternally,

THOS. B. HARRIS, G. S. E.

G. Chapter of Canada,

Washington, D. of C., U. S. A.

“As appears from the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Canada, the Grand Z. did refer the subject to that Grand Chapter for its action, and with the result as shown by the report of the committee of that Grand Chapter, to which it was referred, as quoted above.

And although the committee recommended that the Grand Z. be requested to withdraw the credentials of their representative near this Grand Chapter, and that recommendation was adopted by the Grand Chapter, still nothing was done by the Grand Z. or the Grand Chapter of Canada to carry out the provisions of the recommendation.

Nearly one year after the report of the committee of the Grand Chapter of Canada, the following letter was received from the Grand Z. of that Grand Chapter, addressed, as will be seen, to the Grand Secretary of our Grand Chapter. It speaks for itself :

THE M. E. THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF CANADA,
OFFICE OF THE M. E. THE GRAND Z.,

St. Catharines. Ont., July 23rd, 1875.

L. G. STEPHENS, ESQ., Grand Secretary,

Grand Chapter, District of Columbia, Washington, D. C. :

DEAR SIR AND R. E. COMPANION--You will doubtless remember that some correspondence took place last year between your G. H. P. and my predecessor, relating to the Representative of this Grand Chapter near the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, (R. E. Comp. J. E. MASON,) whose personal relations with your Chief Officers were reported not to be of the cordial nature that it is most desirable should always be maintained. And by reference to the proceedings of this Grand Chapter of last October (official copies of which were sent to you some months ago) it will appear that the difficulty was confided to my care, to adjust in such manner as would best secure that cordiality which it is essential should exist between the two Grand Bodies. With a view to this end, I wrote you last December, stating as above, and asking

a reply. But so far no answer has reached me, which makes me believe that my letter may have miscarried.

Not having received a copy of your last Grand Chapter proceedings, which would have informed me whether M. E. Comp. LARNER is still your G. H. P., or whether he was succeeded by some other eminent Companion, who might entertain no objection to co-operate with R. E. Comp. MASON, and thus obviate all further difficulty, I now write to you again to request that you will bring this letter to the early notice of your G. H. P., with the earnest assurance that he will find me ready to meet any reasonable arrangement that may be proposed, to settle amicably this difficulty before our Annual Convocation to be held here on the 10th August next. And I will add that it will afford, not only myself, but all the members of the Grand Chapter the greatest pleasure to meet at that time any of your Grand Officers or Companions, who will find in the Royal Craft in Canada, those who will extend to them every courtesy that the occasion may call for. Hoping to hear from you at an early day, and that such settlement may be arrived at before August as will prove mutually satisfactory.

Believe me, Dear Sir and R. E. Companion, Yours fraternally

JAS. SEYMOUR, G. Z. Canada

“The above communication being referred to Grand High Priest Larner, he directed the Grand Secretary to answer it, and inform the Grand Z. of the Grand Chapter of Canada that all communications on this subject should be addressed officially to the Grand High Priest of this Grand Chapter.

To this the following reply was received :

GRAND CHAPTER OF CANADA, OFFICE OF THE GRAND SCRIBE E.,

TORONTO, ONT., 4th August, 1875.

Dear Sir and R. E. Companion :

I am directed by the M. Ex. the Grand Z. to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 31st ult., in reply to his communication of the 23rd. Failing to see wherein the courteous proposal made through you, as the official organ of your Grand Chapter, will be advanced by the course you suggest, he respectfully declines acting upon it.

If your M. Ex. G. H. P. desires to promote an early and amicable adjustment, the overture already submitted affords the opportunity.

I am, dear Sir and R. E. Companion, yours fraternally,

R. P. STEPHENS.

G. Scribe E.

“To this very *courteous* note no reply was vouchsafed. And under date of November 1, 1875, the following was received, which also speaks for itself, and is the closing epistle in this remarkable correspondence :”

GRAND CHAPTER OF CANADA, OFFICE OF THE GRAND SCRIBE E.,

TORONTO, ONT., 1st November, 1875.

Dear Sir and R. Ex. Companion :

I am directed by M. Ex. Comp. Henderson, who has succeeded M. E. Comp. Seymour as Grand Z. of this Grand Chapter to again address you with reference to the personal relations subsisting between our Representative, R.

Ex'. Comp. Mason on the one side, and M'. Ex'. Comp. Larnier, G'. H'. P', and your Grand Chapter on the other.

I do this in order to remove any possible grounds of misapprehension as to our position in the matter.

The Grand Z'. desires it to be distinctly understood that neither himself nor his predecessor in office nor this Grand Chapter presumes to dictate to the G'. H'. P'. or to your Grand Chapter as to their course of action, or assumes to sit in judgment on the matters in difference.

The Grand Z'. fully recognizes the necessity, that a Grand Representative, being invested with ambassadorial functions should, in order to accomplish the objects of his mission, be in perfect accord both with those by whom he is sent and those to whom he is accredited, and that whether he is in the right or the wrong in a matter of difference is a question of minor importance, and one of which he cannot constitute himself the judge.

That this is also the view of this Grand Chapter you will see by reference to our "proceedings" of last year, page 458, copies of which I sent you. The difficulty in which the Grand Z'. finds himself placed is that he is asked to revoke an act of one of his predecessors by canceling the credentials of a Representative who has been received and acknowledged as such by the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia without any request from the Grand Body to which he has been accredited, and by which he has been formally recognized.

So far as the Grand Z'. is aware no action was taken on the subject at the last Annual Convocation of your Grand Chapter.

Will you be good enough to submit this communication to the M'. Ex'. G'. H'. P', with the request that if any action is to be taken on the subject by the Grand Chapter at its approaching Annual Convocation, this letter may be submitted with the other correspondence in the matter.

I have the honor to remain,

Dear Sir and R'. Ex'. Companion,

Yours truly and fraternally,

R. P. STEPHENS,

Grand Scribe E'.

L. G. STEPHENS, ESQ.,

Grand Sect'y Grand Chapter District of Columbia,

Washington, D. C., U. S.

"In justice to our Grand Chapter, and to our Grand High Priest, we have given all the correspondence in relation to this matter that is in our possession. We have not the slightest doubt in our minds but that other correspondence has been carried on which has served to complicate this whole matter, and leave it in the condition it is at present writing. We have no comments to make in regard to it, preferring to leave it in the hands of our Companions of sister Grand Chapters, who will, no doubt, comment upon it with fairness and impartiality, having all the facts before them."

GEORGIA.

The craft in Georgia are in a healthy and prosperous condition.

Through ill health, the G. H. P. Comp. Luther J. Glenn was prevented from visiting the subordinates. His decisions during the year were as follows:

“1st. Has a member a right to a demit and remain in the jurisdiction of the Chapter? If so, what relation does he sustain to the Chapter?

To the first, I answered in the affirmative. To the second, that the Chapter could deal with him at any time for unnamasonic conduct so long as he remained within their jurisdiction, though unaffiliated.

2d. Is a member who was dropped from the rolls entitled to visit the Chapter?

To this question I gave a negative answer.

3d. Has a Subordinate Chapter the power to deal with a Royal Arch Mason residing within its jurisdiction, and who claims his membership in a Chapter in another State, for unnamasonic conduct?

To this question I gave an affirmative answer, but suggested that courtesy would require that the Chapter first give information to the sister Chapter of which he was a member and request their action in the premises.

4th. Does suspension for non-payment of dues in a Blue Lodge work a suspension in the Chapter? Are the Chapters liable for the dues of such members?

In reply, I answered the first question in the affirmative; the second in the negative. My decision was based upon an edict of this Grand Chapter, issued in 1861, declaring: ‘That Royal Arch Masons within this jurisdiction can hold no Masonic intercourse with a Mason suspended by a Lodge of Master Masons for any cause whatever.’”

He recommends a return to the former plan of reports by a Committee on Foreign Correspondence, as he believes they have “become a necessity to the intelligent craftsman.”

We recommend the following:

“Non-affiliation and forced membership. On this subject I am gratified to find that common sense, and a return to the first principles and practice of Masonry, are beginning to prevail. Non-affiliation is confessedly an evil. Every Mason *ought* to belong to a Lodge, Chapter, etc. But a *forced* membership is a much greater evil, and would, if persisted in, work a much greater injury to our Institution, because utterly inconsistent with and repugnant to its first principles.

Ours in its very constitution is a *Free* Institution. It does not and cannot recognize a principle of slavery. But what is *forced* membership but a *quasi* slavery. No! Let him who freely comes, as freely go, if he will. When he has lost his interest in us, he will do us less harm outside than if forced to remain inside.

There is nothing compulsory in Freemasonry. We so teach, and until these modern days, when the children have become wiser than

the Fathers, we so practiced. The applicant is made to declare that he seeks initiation into our mysteries, and connection with our Fraternity of his own free will and accord, and of his own "free will and accord" let him depart if he desires. By so doing he cannot divest himself or us of the mutual obligations assumed. With him, as with us, once a Mason, always a Mason. But he does divest himself of certain Lodge rights and privileges which depend entirely on membership, and knowing, as he must, the disabilities he will incur by non-affiliation, he is free to elect for himself *privileges* or *disabilities*. And there I think the matter should rest."

It was resolved :

"That this Grand Chapter now renew its connection with and acknowledge its fealty to the General Grand Chapter of the United States of America, and will be represented at the next Triennial Convocation of said General Grand Body."

ILLINOIS.

Comp. Delancey G. H. P., made a number of official visits. He issued no less than eleven special dispensations, to confer degrees out of time. He reports the action of the General Grand Chapter, with reference to the G. O. R. A. W., saying, "it is now optional with each State, to use the three-syllable word, or three-language word, as they may deem best." (Query.—Which is right? or are they both right? Doctors differ, we know, but on such a point as this there should be uniformity.)

His decisions were few, which he attributes to the comprehensive code of By-Laws adopted at last session.

The Committee on his address, commended his zeal, and state that his visits have infused new life and energy into many of the subordinate Chapters.

In the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence, which was adopted, we find the law stated, in a case where the name of a companion was inserted in the charter of a new Chapter, without his knowledge or consent, (thereby dimitting him from his own Chapter,) he having not signed the petition:—

"The law in this case your committee believe is clear and conclusive—that no name can be inserted in a charter for a new Chapter but the original signers for the dispensation, and not even all, or any, of those

names unless the same are appended to the petition for the charter. Your committee can only reiterate the standing law, that, after a charter has been issued and the names inserted, by action of the Grand Chapter, no name can be added to said charter."

Also the following :—

"That, in relation to the portion of the report of Committee of Chapters U. D. referred to this committee, relative to By-laws of Subordinate Chapters, your committee give as their opinion : First, that no Chapter has any right to enact a law depriving a companion of his inherent rights (to vote or hold office) on account of non-payment of dues ; and that the failure of an applicant to come forward and receive his degrees (after having advanced the money for the same), during any specified time, cannot deprive him of a return of the money, or fulfilment of the contract originally entered into."

Our proceedings for 1874 are kindly noticed.

INDIANA.

The address of the G. H. P., Comp. Geo. H. Fish, is not very long, but is full of interesting points. He believes there is progress being made in "intelligence, morality and brotherly love." He visited ten Chapters and found most of them working well, but finds it necessary to draw attention to two of them :

"At one Chapter which I visited, I was absolutely struck dumb. Feeling fatigued, I declined the chair, preferring to be a "looker-on in Vienna." Upon the first introduction of the candidates, I was struck with the peculiarity of their proceeding, and resolved to wait and see what folly reasonable thinking men could be guilty of. Twice I started from my chair in indignation to stop the farce, but restrained myself and saw it through to the bitter end. How the beautiful lessons sought to be inculcated in this Degree, could ever make a favourable impression upon these "three *wearry* sojourners," is beyond my ken. I left them happy in the thought that they had excelled themselves before one of their Grand Officers. I trust that this public statement will cause them to think and put into practice a modicum of their common sense and intelligence, of which they have plenty.

Another Chapter (———) I found had passed a resolution wiping out all indebtedness to their Chapter by its members, at one fell swoop. Among this indebtedness were the notes and promises to pay off some of their Companions for the Degrees conferred upon them. I objected to it, and ordered them to change it. They claimed to have a right to control their finance in their own way. To which I assented, but told them that, as it

now stood, it was an injustice to the other Companions that the Grand Chapter would not allow. A Companion (amply able to pay) said to me, "I will pay my note when others do." I asked him what the note was for. He immediately answered, "For my Degrees." The Constitution plainly says, "that the Degrees shall not be conferred upon any one for a less sum than twenty dollars." I asked the High Priest to let me hear from him before the meeting of the Grand Chapter, in hope that this evil would be corrected. I have heard nothing ; and now recommend that the Chapter be required to collect such amounts as are due them for Degrees conferred. That on failure to collect, charges shall be preferred against said delinquents, and on failure to collect or expel, their charter be arrested. **STRONG TONIC** ; but, Companions, a constitution so shattered and weakened needs it. This milk and water diet, the "let alone" policy, is an injury to the best interests of the Craft. Help, aid and assist, by counsel, precept and example, when it is needed and appreciated ; but also remember that a "counter irritant" is often absolutely necessary to restore healthy action."

We also make the following extracts :—

"It seems to me that Masonry is quite cheap in certain portions of our jurisdiction, and it furnishes a strong argument in favor of a rigid inspection. Something ought to be done. Masonic bodies should not be allowed to die in this suicidal manner—debts due the community, who have no recourse, and the members allowed to remain in good standing as unaffiliates. Collect from them what they honestly owe—sufficient, at least, to satisfy all claims against them, or failing to do this, prefer charges against them in the Chapter in whose jurisdiction they reside. I trust you will not let these breaches of Masonic trust quietly go unheeded. * * *

"Information was furnished me that Clarksburg Chapter, No. 60, was traveling in that broad way which leadeth to destruction. Upon due and careful investigation I was convinced that they had held a meeting prior to the regular night, held an election, the officers elect taking their seats at once, without installation, and falsified their record to conceal the fact ; had invited a Companion from Ohio to lecture them in the work, and conferred several degrees, with their new officers, before the night of their regular meeting for election. The papers in connection with this matter are herewith submitted.

With these facts proven to my entire satisfaction, I appointed Companion J. L. Wooden, of Greensburgh, my special deputy, with positive instructions to arrest their charter, and take charge of their property. Under date of September 16th, he reports having performed this duty, and delivered to the Grand Secretary their charter, books and \$31.10 in money."

One decision is worthy of note :—

“Has a Past High Priest a right to open a Past Master’s Lodge and confer that Degree upon a W. M. elect, without informing the H. P., K. or S. of the Chapter, when they are all in the same city ?

Ans. A convocation of Past Masters can be called for the purpose named, by any *actual* Past Master, and at any time subsequent to the election of the Master, and prior to the installation. It is a body responsible to no one, and the Chapter has no cognizance of its doings, or any control over its proceedings. It is not necessary or proper to notify Chapter officers or members. Three actual Past Masters can open a convocation for that purpose, and perform its ceremonies. Courtesy might suggest the propriety of notifying the actual Past Masters, but it is not obligatory. Companion Drummond, of Maine, our Past General Grand High Priest, puts it in a convenient form. Consider the “actual and virtual” as two persons of the same name.”

And he closes as follows :—

“Companions, I have spoken plainly. Your suffrages gave me this position, and when I accepted it, I fully made up my mind that some things should not be quietly passed by—malpractices, known to exist, should have prompt treatment. We have scores of Chapters in our State, that are an honour to us and to the Royal Craft. Bright, active, intelligent, moral, Masons in all their manhood, and it is in justice to these that the few should be made to know that there are lessons taught, and principles involved in the workings of our degrees and maintenance of our organizations.” * * *

“Companions, organize a system of visitation and inspection. If necessary, pay the expenses of your Grand Officers, for this special work, from our exchequer. Assure the Companion you select to fill my place, that you will approve all needed discipline, and rest assured that in two years you will have all Chapters with returns promptly made, dues paid, and Representatives here happy in the consciousness of their well doing.”

There were no grievances or appeals.

The following resolutions were adopted :—

“*Resolved*, That the M. E. Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King and Grand Scribe, be, and are hereby constituted a Committee of Visitation and Inspection ; and that said committee be paid from the funds of this Grand Chapter, the sum of three dollars per day while actually employed, and five cents per mile for all necessary travel.”

“*Resolved*, That the recommendation of the M. E. Grand High Priest,

in his annual address in regard to the collection of fees for Degrees, be and the same is hereby approved."

Canada for 1874, is kindly noticed.

IOWA.

Comp. Robert F. Bower, G. H. P., delivered an excellent address. He reports eight decisions:—

"1. Several Chapters have written to me, calling my attention to the action of the General Grand Chapter about substitutes, and inquiring whether they could use them. To which I replied: 1st, that the action of the General Grand Chapter was not mandatory; 2d, that our Grand Chapter had passed a resolution forbidding their use; and, 3d, although I personally favored their use, yet I would not violate the plain law of our Grand Chapter, and therefore I refused their use.

2. In reply to the question, whether a petition which had been referred to a committee, and was in their hands, could be withdrawn, I answered, no.

3. In reply to an inquiry, I ruled: 1st, that in the absence of the High Priest, King, and Scribe, a Chapter could not be opened; 2d, that it required nine Royal Arch Masons to open a Chapter; and, 3d, that it was necessary that they should all be members of said Chapter.

4. I ruled that an installed High Priest cannot resign, nor demit, until his successor is duly elected and installed.

5. I ruled that when an appropriation was made by a Chapter, and a warrant properly drawn for the same was presented to the Treasurer he had no option in the matter, but must pay it.

6. I ruled that if a Companion dimits from his Lodge and remains unaffiliated a year, he becomes non-affiliated in his Chapter. To regain his membership, he must affiliate with his Lodge and petition his Chapter and be ballotted for, the same as a new member.

7. In the case of Hebron Chapter, where a bill was surreptitiously allowed by the Chapter, and a warrant properly drawn was refused payment by the Treasurer, and afterwards, when the High Priest and others wrote me that it was obtained by fraud, and asked me what to do, I decided that the same power which passed a resolution could rescind it, and ordered the Companions to be summoned to a special convocation to decide the matter, which they did, and voted against it.

8. I ruled that a Chapter can hold only one regular convocation a month, but may hold any number of special convocations for conferring

the degrees. 2d. A chapter U. : D. : can receive and ballot upon petitions for membership accompanied with dimit, but they cannot grant dimitts."

We differ as to the third ruling in the third decision. We think it is not necessary that the nine should all be members of the Chapter. The sixth decision is also contrary to the practice in this jurisdiction. We do not hold lodge membership, as necessary for entrance or continuance of membership in the Chapter.

Comp. Bower recommends further encouragement to the Masonic Library. He refers, in feeling terms, to the death of Comp. U. D. Taylor, for some years the Chairman of Correspondence.

The Committee on the address of the G. H. P., pay a well merited tribute to a deserving officer. They say :—

"The address presents the condition of the Royal Craft in a sound and prosperous condition, a result owing much to the enlightened labors of the Grand High Priest and his predecessors, who have laboured earnestly and wisely to place the Grand Chapter upon its present eminence of usefulness and success.

The zeal and good works of our Grand High Priest have not been confined to the limits of our own jurisdiction, but have been co-extensive with that of the country, to every jurisdiction of which he has borne the name of this body. And we are happy to know, that his labours have met the approval of the distinguished Companions abroad, as manifested in his election to the office of General Grand King, in the General Grand Chapter, at its session in Nashville, in November last." * * *

"In conclusion, your committee desire to express the fact, as we believe it to be, that Companion Bower will bear with him, in his retirement, the commendation of the Grand Chapter, and of all Royal Arch Masons in its jurisdiction, that in all his efforts in their behalf, he has labored with an eye single to their good, and has now the satisfaction to know that their best wishes for his future welfare will ever follow him as he resumes his place upon the checkered floor."

The Grand Officers were installed in public, in the Chatham Street M. E. Church, and the Grand Orator, Theodore S. Parvin, delivered an oration.

The following resolution was laid on the table :—

"*Resolved*, That the High Priest of each subordinate Chapter in this

state be, and is hereby, required, within three months, to summon each of the members residing within the jurisdiction of his Chapter, who has not selected and recorded his mark, to appear at the next regular convocation of his Chapter and make such selection ; and any Companion failing to do so, shall be suspended until he shall comply with the requirements of the Grand Chapter, or give a good reason for not doing so."

A Past Grand High Priest's jewel was ordered to be presented to Comp. Bower as a token of respect.

The following were adopted :—

" Resolved, That the Grand Treasurer is hereby directed to endeavour to collect the balance due this Grand Chapter under the judgment against Past Grand Treasurer Chase.

Resolved, That the Grand High Priest shall summon Past Grand Treasurer Chase to appear before this Grand Chapter at it next Annual Convocation, at ten o'clock A. M. of the first day, to show cause why he shall not be suspended or expelled, as may be decided by the Grand Chapter, for refusing and neglecting to pay this Grand Chapter moneys due it from him, and for hindering and delaying its collection, and that the Grand Treasurer shall cause all necessary witnesses to be summoned to attend such trial, and to procure all necessary documentary evidence bearing upon the question, unless, within six months from the date hereof, Past Grand Treasurer Chase shall satisfy in full his indebtedness to this Grand Chapter.

Resolved, That the Grand Treasurer is authorized to employ to assist him, the services of some Companion attorney.

Resolved, That upon the close of this Grand Chapter, the Grand Secretary shall furnish Past Grand Treasurer Chase with a copy of these resolutions."

The use of substitutes was again brought up, and discussed, but a resolution to repeal their present regulation, (which forbids their use,) was lost, by 70 to 95.

A fine portrait of Comp. R. F. Bower graces the proceedings, and a short biographical sketch by Comp. T. S. Parvin, is appended, from which we learn that :—

" Mr. B. has made himself especially valuable to his fellow-citizens in all public enterprises tending to advance the moral or physical development of his adopted city ; and as president of the Loan and Building Association of Keokuk, one of the most successful enterprises ever started

there, as president of the Commercial Bank since its organization in 1872, and for several years as director of the Iowa State Insurance Company, and for the last two years as treasurer of the City of Keokuk, he has received the endorsement of the business men among whom he lives; while to him more than to any other one man, is the city indebted for the founding and success of the Keokuk Library Association, which under his presidency and fostering care, has outgrown all others of its kind in our state—a fit monument of his zeal and liberality in a praiseworthy direction. His own library of miscellaneous and masonic books, is one of the largest, most valuable, and well selected we have ever seen west of the great river.

The *Masonic department* of his library deserves special mention, as it comprises some thirty-five hundred volumes, and is one of the most complete, and probably the largest in the world. For rare and valuable works and manuscripts, it is not surpassed, and if equalled at all, is so only by that of Comp. E. T. Carson, of Cincinnati. Its collection has cost him several years of time and labor and many thousands of dollars, and it is his especial pride. In this collection are rare and valuable manuscripts of Preston, Oliver, and others, and it includes the famous Constitutions of 1722, the first Masonic book published, and Dr. Fifield D'Assigny's "Serious and Impartial Inquiry," printed in 1744, of which this is the only copy known to be in existence, and which contains the earliest known reference to the Royal Arch."

The report on Correspondence is by Comp. E. A. Gilbert, and is one of his best, which is saying a good deal. In order to give our Companions a sample of a good report, we will copy, entire, his notice of Canada:—

"The seventeenth Annual Grand Convocation was held in Ottawa, October 14th, 1874, M.: E.: C. D. MacDonnell, Grand Z.:, presiding,

Forty-nine subordinates represented.

As we learn from the Grand Z.:’s address, this annual Convocation should have been holden in August. It was proposed out of regard for the lamented Companion, Thos. B. Harris, Grand Scribe E.:, who was at that time dangerously ill. The hope that Comp. Harris would be restored to health and fill again the Grand Southeast in October, did not prove prophetic. His long and brilliant Masonic career ended August 18th, 1874, and on the 21st of that month, he was buried by the Grand Lodge of Canada, Grand Master Wilson himself officiating. The Grand Z.: was present in his official capacity. In the annual address, the Grand Z.: pays the memory of the Grand Scribe E.: an eloquent tribute, and advises that the Grand Chapter unite with the other Dominion Grand Bodies in the erection of a monument in honor of Comp.: Harris. The Executive Committee to whom this was referred, strange to say, do not notice this suggestion.

The Grand Lodge of the Canadas, to which Comp. Harris was long the Grand Secretary, and the associate Grand Bodies of that Province, have now an opportunity—and an excuse for doing that which shall make future generations bless them. Monuments of marble are well enough in their way, but they benefit no one. Erected by Masonic Grand Bodies, they are empty, useless

"shows." They are even more than shows. They are the representatives of a misapplication of masonic money. The monuments which would most fittingly honour the Canadian Grand Bodies, and which would best perpetuate the memory of the dead Grand Secretary, would be a HARRIS' ORPHAN'S HOME, well endowed, and yearly made the recipient of cordial contributions from the Grand and subordinate Bodies of the jurisdiction.

The Grand Z.^c. announces the death of two other Grand officers, viz: J. V. Noel and Thos. Duggan. Both of these Companions were Grand Superintendents. They were zealous and active Masons, and were known and honored as upright men.

The Grand Z.^c. reports the issuances of seven dispensations for new Chapters. one of these is seated at Lucknow, Ont., and is appropriately named HAVELOCK. The Grand Z.^c. had appointed a number of representatives near United States Grand Chapters. In this connection he reproduces a letter from Grand High Priest Larner of the District of Columbia, asking that the commission of Comp. Jno. E. Mason, as representative of the Grand Chapter of Canada, near the Grand Chapter of the District, be revoked. M.^c. E.^c. Comp.^c. Larner's reasons for making the request are, that "the personal relations existing between" Comp. Mason and himself, "are of such a character as to prohibit intercourse between" the twain. The Grand Z.^c. declined to accede to the request: First, because there are no charges "of irregularity or misconduct" brought against Comp. Mason; second, because the appointment was the "deliberate act of one of his predecessors, performed on the best recommendation, confirmed by the Grand Chapter in Annual Convocation, and the said Representative having been received and recognized" by the Grand Chapter of the District. This was clearly the correct view to take. I know nothing of the merits of the case, and the Annual of the District does not mention the affair, but there seems to be no reason why a Representative should be removed from office because the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter to which he is accredited cannot embrace him when they meet. The successor of the Grand High Priest might be able to do "that same," and so the odds would be made even once more.

The jurisdiction is divided into quite a number of Districts. Over these are placed what are termed Grand Superintendents. Their duties seem to be these, viz.: To visit and instruct Chapters; install the officers; institute new Chapters; approve or disapprove and forward applications for new Chapters to the Grand Z.^c.; hear and determine complaints, etc., etc., always under the direction of the Grand Z.^c. Their duties are very comprehensive, and, if well performed, are doubtless of "essential service to the craft." Twelve of these Grand Superintendents make reports, and prove thereby that they have not been drones in the hive. With some modifications, this system might be transplanted to Iowa with good results. The reports of the Grand Superintendents show that Capitular Masonry, in the Dominion, is "healthy and prosperous." The income for the year was \$1,974.01; the expenditures were \$1,762.30. The Grand Chapter has in hand over \$4,000, \$3,000 of which is invested in Dominion five per cents.

In the case of Larner versus Mason, the Executive Committee refer the matter of the withdrawal of the commission to the Grand Z.^c., leaving him to determine as to the necessity of such an unusual ex parte procedure. The committee think that it is not desirable to have a Representative at a Grand Chapter "who is not agreeable to those with whom he comes in contact, and whose presence might impair those kindly feelings which should at all times exist between sister Grand Bodies."

The committee are particular in stating that they "have no cause of dissatis-

faction with Comp. Mason," and yet sanction his "taking off," without giving him his Masonic rights to confront his accusers and to make his defence. As the Chairman of the Executive Committee was elected Grand Z., and as the report of the Committee was adopted, it would seem that the incoming Grand Z. was allowed to shape his policy on this question in advance.

By formal resolution, the Chapters in the Province of Quebec were granted permission to meet and consider the propriety of organizing a Grand Chapter for that Province. This is doing things "decently and in order," and is not in imitation of the course pursued by the Grand Lodge under similar circumstances.

The Report on Correspondence is again from the pen of Comp. Henry Robertson. It covers eighty-nine pages of the Annual, and deals with the proceedings of thirty-five sister Grand Bodies. Our Annual for 1873 was before the writer and is complimented with quite a lengthy notice. The address of Grand High Priest Guilbert is largely quoted from, and the portions relating to the jurisdictional imbroglio, are given complete. He also quotes from the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence, who disagreed with the Grand High Priest in his ruling, and approves their utterances. He fails to notice, as have other reviewers, that the committee aforesaid neglected to touch the central point on which the whole question hinged, viz.: That the party who was the bone of contention, had been thrice rejected in Hudson Chapter, and that in this way that Chapter, by every principle of Masonic justice, had acquired jurisdiction over the candidate, and that to make the case still plainer, the party returned to Hudson shortly after his Iowa exaltation and resumed his temporarily interrupted residence. Comp. Robertson, from the Canada standpoint, dissents from the decision of the Grand High Priest to the effect that a ballot can of right be demanded at any regular Convocation, while a candidate is passing through the degrees, but that it is more Masonic to present charges and give the Brother a chance to defend himself. Comp. Robertson maintains that what is unmasonic cannot be right. Nevertheless, in Iowa and other jurisdictions, the right to stop a candidate in that underhand way is formally conceded, and the decision was based on that custom, while the comments—which please Robertson—were founded on a broader principle, viz.: That Golden Rule of action, "on which hang all the law and the prophets." This is not the only law in our Masonry that needs to be repealed. So long as it remains unrepealed, a Grand High Priest must enforce it. Comp. Robertson notices the pleasant episode in which Past Grand King McGleary's cane figured so largely. He refers to Taylor's Report on Correspondence in a deservedly complimentary style.

Comp. Robertson will regret to hear that the talented, genial and erratic Companion has "gone the way whence he shall not return," and that—sad to relate—he, himself, "his quietus made." No doubt while temporarily insane another victim to the Moloch of habit.

Poor Taylor! Green be the turf above thee! Thy faults were those of humanity. Thy virtues were not a few and were thy own.

Comp. Robertson pays Comp. Bower a merited and handsome compliment on his accession to the east of the Grand Sanetuary.

The larger part of the report is made up of extracts. Comments are few, but are kindly and discriminating in the extreme. The writer is evidently both scholar and student.

Number of Chapters, 60; number of members, 2,774.

Number of exalted, 211.

Number of deaths, 24.

Comp. James Seymour was elected Grand Z.:

Comp. R. P. Stephens was made Grand Scribe E.:

Before closing, I ought not to fail to notice the fact that the Grand Chapter voted the widow of Grand Scribe Harris an annuity of two hundred dollars This is an act which does the Grand Chapter great credit."

We also make an extract from his notice of New York :—

"The Grand High Priest decided, in open Grand Chapter, 'that employment of mnemonics, cyphers, or any other than the methods recognized among Masons as *legitimate*, for the purpose of teaching the work and lectures, was prohibited.' This is, of course, for foreign consumption. Meanwhile the well-known professors of Hindoo theology, to whom New York has given birth, will placidly instruct their numerous pupils in the true faith, for a consideration, paying very little attention to these Pickwickian utterances. The decision of the Grand High Priest was formally approved, and, by resolution, the Committee on Jurisprudence was 'empowered to inquire as to the use or possession of improper publications by any Grand Officer purporting to teach the ritual of Capitular Masonry.' Perhaps the committee, in their investigation of the private libraries of the Craft, might achieve distinguished success by beginning at *home*—though, whether the reputation of these eminent Companions will be greatly enhanced by their acceptance of the office of Grand Spy, is another question. Probably nothing will ever again be heard of the matter, and the sudden spasmodic rectitude will have become another apt illustration of the Shakespearian injunction, 'Assume a virtue if you have it not.'"

KANSAS.

Comp. John M. Price, G. H. P., congratulates the Grand Chapter on the prevailing harmony and prosperity. Among other decisions, we find the following ; which are in the main correct :—

"In the absence of the High Priest, King and Scribe, no subordinate officer or Past High Priest is authorized to open the Chapter. If either one of the three principal officers is present he can request any Royal Arch Mason to open the Chapter, or preside over it when opened, or confer the Degrees.

"To constitute a quorum, or open the Chapter, there must be present nine regular Royal Arch Masons, and that number must continue to be present in order to lawfully transact any business. The required nine need not all be members of the Chapter in order to open and close the Chapter, and to confer Degrees, but to transact any other business there must be nine members of the Chapter present.

“A Companion has no right to disclose the character of his ballot. If he does so he can be disciplined.

“An actual Past Master receiving the Capitular Degrees must have the Past Master's Degree again conferred on him in the Chapter.

“It is the moral and Masonic duty of every Royal Arch Mason to abstain from profanity, gambling and intemperance. For the habitual and persistent practice of either of these vices, especially after a fraternal admonition, a Companion can and ought to be disciplined by his Chapter.”

The Grand Secretary called the attention of the Grand Chapter to some important legislation of the General Grand Chapter, and especially the action of that Grand Body in granting enlarged powers to its Subordinate Chapters Under Dispensation, and favored the idea of this Grand Chapter granting similar powers to its Subordinates Under Dispensation. When to test the sense of the Grand Chapter, Companion Byington offered the following as a Standing Regulation :—

“Resolved, That the Grand Chapter of Kansas hereby vests in its Subordinates Under Dispensation full powers of discipline over their members, and the right to exercise all the powers of Chartered Chapters, save the election and installation of officers.”

Which after some discussion, was adopted.

The Grand Chapters of West Virginia, Nevada, and Colorado were recognized.

A protracted discussion took place upon the second decision above quoted, the principal point, apparently being, how many of the nine necessary to form a quorum, should be members of the Chapter. It was finally decided, by Grand Chapter :

“That to constitute a quorum or open a Chapter, there must be present nine regular Royal Arch Masons, and that number must continue present in order to lawfully work or transact any business. Five be the number must be members of the Chapter.”

This is a point we would like to see discussed. Why should five be the number? Why not three, or four, or six, or seven?

A reprint of the proceedings was ordered.

The Correspondence Report is by the Grand Secretary, Comp. E. T. Carr, in which our proceedings for 1874 are reviewed. We find, in his notice of North Carolina, that Comp. Carr, on one point, is considerably in advance of the present age. We fancy that the Masons of to-day are not exactly educated yet, up to his standpoint. He says:—

“He quotes our remarks concerning the Texas practice of allowing visitors to vote upon the application for Degrees. We said, personally *we* agree with him. He says :

Personally we dissent, so that ‘We three cannot agree.’ We believe it contrary to all law, that such a thing as visitors voting on any question, should be tolerated in any Lodge or Chapter. We are a close communion Mason in that particular. Let outsiders have no part or lot in the business transactions of the Chapter.

“Since we said what we did upon the subject, we have become still more convinced that the practice would be of vast benefit to the Order, and should be encouraged. We don’t believe that a Royal Arch Mason, and a member of a Chapter in good standing, is an outsider in any Chapter when the question to be decided is, ‘Shall this brother be made a Royal Arch Mason?’ We would give the right of ballot, and also the right of objection, to all Companions in good standing wherever they may be. Being made a member of the Order, comprehends far more, Companion Southgate, than mere membership in a particular Lodge or Chapter.”

In this matter we are inclined to be conservative. It is undeniable that the members of a Chapter, are more likely to be better acquainted with the characters of applicants than any others, and to allow visitors to vote (on any question,) would in our opinion, be productive of serious troubles.

KENTUCKY.

We regret to learn of the death of Comp. J. M. S. McCorkle, Grand Secretary, which occurred on March 5th, 1875. He had filled the highest offices in Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter, and was deservedly esteemed and respected.

To fill the vacancy, the G. H. P., Comp. Joseph P. Foree, appointed P. G. H. P., Joseph H. Branham. Comp. Foree reports peace and harmony generally prevailing. He says there

is a great want of uniformity of work, and suggests that some measures should be taken, to improve and correct the work of the Subordinate Chapters. He refused all applications for dispensations, to confer degrees out of time.

The following resolution was adopted :—

“ Resolved, That this Grand Chapter adopt the instructions contained in *MACKEY’S BOOK OF THE CHAPTER* so far as they relate to the *WORK IN THE VEILS*, and that the Subordinate Chapters in this jurisdiction be required to conform to the same.”

Companion Henry Bostwick, from the committee appointed at the last meeting of Grand Chapter to visit the General Grand Chapter of the United States, reported that he had visited that body, but had been unable to gain any knowledge of Capitular Masonry which would be of value to this Grand Chapter.

Companion W. L. Thomas offered the following resolution, which, on motion, was adopted, viz :—

“ Resolved, That the Grand High Priest appoint a Historiographer to prepare a compend of the proceedings of this Grand Chapter from its organization down to the year 1875, and publish the same in connection with the Report on Foreign Correspondence at the next session.”

Comp. H. A. M. Henderson has a good Report on Correspondence, noticing our proceedings for 1874. He suggests that we should change the titles of our three Principals, and make them the same as theirs, “for the sake of uniformity.” But we think we are right and historically correct, and we will hardly change to what we believe to be incorrect, and an innovation. We are glad that Comp. Henderson enjoyed his visit up north. He says :—

“ We have recently had a most delightful visit to the province of Ontario, where we met with some live Masons, who seemed to take unfeigned pleasure in giving us true fraternal greeting and making our stay pleasant. As Masonry makes a man cosmopolitan, and is a sure passport over the wide world wherever the Craft has residence, how careful should we be as to the character of those we admit to our mystic rites and introduce to a society that parallels every latitudinal line, and on whose Lodge-room retreats the light of a ceaseless day shines ? ”

LOUISIANA.

Comp. Samuel J. Powell, G. H. P., reports as follows :—

“During the past year we have had abundant cause for thankfulness and congratulation. Peace and quiet, for the most part, have prevailed. Financial fluctuations have been less embarrassing. Abundant crops have rewarded the toil of the husbandman ; commerce and industry have, to some extent, revived ; and no epidemic or serious sickness has visited our people.

The political condition of our State is not such as we could desire. Dark shadows still intercept between us and the full enjoyment of equal rights and privileges, which are the lawful heritage of this free and enlightened people. We believe, however, that there is yet a future for our beloved State. Our hopes in this direction, so often disappointed, again revive, and we have good reason to believe that the day of our deliverance is not far distant.

It gives me great pleasure to report that Royal Arch Masonry in this jurisdiction is still in a healthful and vigorous condition. There has been no perceptible increase in membership ; and in fact, under the new regulation of suspending delinquents, in many localities the membership has decreased. In my judgment, this is no cause of alarm or regret. Masonic obligations weigh lightly on the consciences of those who are able to pay their dues, and neglect that important duty ; or if unable to pay, place such a poor estimate on the friendship and charity of their companions as to be unwilling to ask for indulgence. I regard all such, as fungi on the Masonic body, that eat out of its substance, and retard its healthy growth. Our Order loses nothing by severing its connection with them.

I am glad, however, to say, that in every Chapter I find a faithful few who fully appreciate their high privileges, and are ever ready and willing to do their duty, and their whole duty, and through them Royal Arch Masonry has maintained its integrity, continued its usefulness, and preserved its usual prosperity.”

He very properly refused to answer certain questions submitted to him for decision on behalf of a Companion against whom charges had been preferred, and whose trial was pending. The facts charged were admitted, but these points were raised as a defense, and we say it was rather a cool piece of proceeding, to endeavour to get the decision of the G. H. P. on these points, in advance of the trial, and thus, in fact, prejudice the case.

Comp. Powell recommends that the allowance of mileage, and *per diem*, be continued, and that an assessment of fifty cents, *per capita*, be levied to pay off the present indebtedness.

The following were adopted :—

“RESOLVED, That hereafter, all warrants uncalled for within two years of their date, shall be cancelled by the Grand Secretary, and the several amounts appropriated thereunder shall revert to the Treasury.

RESOLVED, That each Chapter shall pay or levy an assessment of seventy-five cents for each member borne upon its rolls, and that the several Chapters be requested to pay such assessment within the ensuing ninety days.”

The Report on Correspondence has not come to hand at the time of closing this report.

MAINE.

Comp. Horace H. Burbank, G. H. P., made a number of official visits, and reports the chapters as properly cautious of those who seek admission. He decided, that a request for waiver of jurisdiction should lie over one month before being acted on. We approve.

The following resolution was adopted as a Standing Regulation, viz :—

“Resolved, That a candidate for the degrees whose petition has been accepted, who does not present himself to receive the Mark degree within one year from such acceptance, shall forfeit all right by reason of such acceptance, and shall not be advanced except on a new petition ; but any time, if more than three months, such person is temporarily absent from the State shall be deducted.”

Also the following, which refers to the decision above mentioned :—

“Resolved, That the recommendation and consent referred to in Sections 35 and 36 of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter shall be given only by a unanimous vote taken by secret ballot, upon an application presented at one stated convocation, and laid over to the next before balloting thereon.”

Comp. Josiah H. Drummond has again resumed the reportorial

quill, and intimates that this labor is more to his liking than any official position. His experience, while General Grand High Priest, will doubtless, be of great service to himself, and the Companions of Maine. We are greatly indebted this year to Comp. Drummond for his valuable table of statistics, which will be found at the end of this report.

MARYLAND.

From the address of G. H. P., Bowers, we copy as follows :—

“During the year I have visited the Subordinate Chapters of the Jurisdiction with two exceptions, and have to report the same inactivity that prevailed during the previous year in our country Chapters ; and in our city Chapters the interest is not what it should be, for, outside the officers and their personal friends, the attendance is meagre compared with the number of members. My visits to the city Chapters have been very frequent ; in fact, every night that a Chapter met, when I had no engagement, I spent the evening in the Chapter room, doing all I could by my presence, advice and assistance to encourage the officers and promote the general good of the Craft.

Grand Chapter adopted the following resolution, which we approve, as we believe a clear distinction should be kept up between “actual,” and “virtual” Past Masters. With us the degrees are not the same, and the recipient of one, has no right whatever, to assume that he knows anything about the other. As a matter of fact, he can know but very little, and this should be distinctly understood and kept in mind.

“Resolved, That all candidates being so called actual Past Masters, shall hereafter have conferred upon them the essential portion of the P. M. Degree before they can receive the succeeding degrees.”

It was also resolved :—

“That the sum of \$100.00, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be appropriated for the purpose of procuring for this Grand Chapter, a Photographic Album, in which year by year is to be placed the Photographs of the Officers of the Grand Chapter ; and that a committee of three be appointed by the Grand High Priest to carry out the object of the above resolution.

This is an example worthy of imitation.

The Grand Chapter also decided :—

“That it shall not be competent, for the H. :P. : of any Chapter within this jurisdiction, to exalt to the degree of Royal Arch, any brother who has not previously recorded his particular mark in the book of marks.

The Report on Correspondence is again by Comp. Hermon L. Emmons, Jr., and is very good. He notices Canada for 1874. (On behalf of the printer, we apologize for the mistakes in the names of that year.)

We are sorry to lose Comp. Emmons from the ranks of the Reporters, and hope his absence will be only temporary. We must, at the same time, congratulate him on his elevation to the chair of Grand High Priest ; a position to which, we are sure he will do credit.

MASSACHUSETTS.

At the quarterly Convocation on March 9th, 1875, M. E. Comp. Alfred F. Chapman offered the following resolution, which, on motion, was adopted :—

“RESOLVED, That in adopting the System of Representation, this Grand Chapter will adhere to the rule, not to appoint or receive any Companion as Representative, unless he shall have attained the rank of High Priest, or is a member of his respective Grand Chapter.”

The deaths are announced of Rev. Geo. S. Noyes, Grand Chaplain, Thomas Waterman, P. G. Secretary and P. G. King and Winslow Lewis, P. D. G. H. P., and fitting eulogies were delivered on each of these esteemed Companions.

The address of Comp. J. W. Dadmun, G. H. P., at the Annual Convocation, is brief, but pointed. He visited a number of the Chapters, and finds them generally doing well.

We make one extract :—

“Last year this Grand Chapter adopted with singular unanimity the Representative System. This, we believe, is a step in the right direction. As Companions, we should strive to annihilate distances, break down all opposing barriers, and try to get so near to each other

that we can mutually feel the warm pulsations of every fraternal heart. The little amenities of life do not cost much, but when cultivated they lighten our burdens and throw a great deal of warmth and sunlight upon our pathway through this ever-changing world.

Suitable Credentials have been prepared, and Representatives have been appointed to a large number of our sister Grand Chapters."

The following report was passed :—

"In answer to a circular of inquiry, addressed to several Subordinate Chapters, in regard to a Steel-plate Engraving for Diplomas, the answers, with not more than two or three exceptions, expressed a preference in favor of it, and a readiness to pay ONE DOLLAR each for Diplomas printed therefrom.

In consequence of this, and authority granted by this Grand Chapter, your Committee made a very favourable contract with an engraver, and we have his assurance, that we can issue Diplomas from it within thirty days.

We therefore recommend, 1st, that no other Diploma shall be authorized or issued within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, nor shall the Grand Secretary be permitted to sign any Diploma for Chapter purposes, issued by any person or persons, except that above alluded to, and as may be hereinafter provided.

2d. That the Grand Secretary be authorized to cause the old plate, now in use, to be suitably inscribed, that certificates may be printed from it, for travellers' use—which can be done by engraving upon its face the words—"A Certificate for the use of Companions Travelling."—and that the same be issued subject to recommendation No. 1.

3. That the price of the Diploma, and of the Certificate, shall be "One Dollar" each, to be paid to the Grand Secretary, on delivery.

4th. Any Companion who so desires may exchange such Chapter diploma as he now has, by surrendering it to the Secretary of the Chapter of which he is a member, and paying the cost of the new one, and all old diplomas so exchanged shall be returned to the Grand Secretary, who shall destroy them."

Comp. Alfred W. Chapman, has an elaborate report, (120 pages) on Correspondence. It is full of interesting points, but we have only room for a few extracts. Canada for 1874 is noticed very kindly, and after quoting the resolution of the annuity to the widow of our late Grand Scribe E., he says :—

“Companions of Canada, you deserve success—that vote is full of the goodness of God.”

In his remarks on District of Columbia, he says:—

“At each of these Visitations he caused an Address to be delivered by some Companion invited to do so.

We congratulate the Companions of the District that these Addresses were by different authors. In our early experience in Masonry we were anxious to obtain knowledge, and set out to visit all the Lodges,—twelve of them—in a District. The District Deputy thought it would be a good thing to give an Address in each Lodge when he made his Visitations. We chanced to meet the Delegation, heard the Address, and were pleased; a second time we heard it, and didn't like it as well; a third time we heard it, it opened as before, “To possess a key,” we wished we had one, and could lock that Address up. And now we agree with Companion Larnier: we like change.”

And under “Maine,” he gives the “objectors” some additional arguments, which they will find difficult to answer.

“That, we hold to be good law; but in discussing ‘objections to advancement,’ we must ask for allowance. The candidate has complied with all the forms of law, and stands elected by a clear ballot, which certainly gives him an inchoate Masonic right to the Degrees: therefore rights committed to, hence rights in the Chapter. Objections—and these are not charges—are made; his character—of ‘worthy and well-qualified,’ already approved—is put in jeopardy: and does he not have, in an equal degree, with any or all others, the right to justice? The objections, like the candidate, should pass in review: they may be ‘frivolous,’—we heard them once so reported by a Committee; but if they had been reported weighty, the vote which accepted the report and removed the objections, might, on the the other hand, have properly barred the advancement; nor are we quite clear in regard to the suggested application of that word,—we say, advanced to the Degree of M. M. M.,—therefore, in the sense of the Ritual, we see no difference whether the Candidate has received one Degree in the Chapter or none. And, indeed, why may not the candidate advance from grade to grade also?”

And his conclusion is good.

“In looking over the proceedings of the several Grand Chapters, we find a greater variety of subjects discussed, than might, without reflection, seem reasonable—chief among them are ‘Non-Affiliation,’ gen-

erally condemned, as it ought to be, when wilful ; ‘ Jurisdiction,’—Territorial and Penal ; ‘ Substitutes,’ made, as we think, unnecessarily prominent ; ‘ Maimed Candidates,’ on which many decisions have been made, but we doubt if any one is entirely satisfactory outside of its own jurisdiction ; ‘ Rejected Material,’ to which the latter remark will apply, though we think that the G. G. Chapter found the true solution of the question in 1874 ; ‘ Objection,’ after ballot and election—in regard to which we prefer to adhere to our practice : but others widely differ from us, and regard objection as they do a black ball ; ‘ Selecting and recording a Mark’—this subject, as treated in other Grand Chapters, is worthy of all praise ; it should be complied with, or perhaps better, enforced in our own :—add to these the many others of local or minor importance, and we can more readily understand the magnitude of the work done by Committees and Grand Chapters.

“ But among all that has been said and done during the past year, among interests so diversified, and elements widely separated, representing a membership in the United States and Canada of about 132,000, we fail to notice a malicious or envious word or act ; or a want made known, without relief ; a sorrow expressed, without sympathy ; a home made desolate, without the incoming of friends.

“ ‘ To the Glory of the Grand Architect of the Universe,’ be it spoken : the true Word of Masonry is LOVE.

“ And now, Companions, the time has come when we must lay down the Reporter’s pen, and exchange places with our present superior. Our stay in the Corps Reportorial has been short, but however long the time may be in which it will become us to perform our duties and obligations to the Craft, we shall remember our association with you all with delight.

“ To those of our Brother Reporters whom we have seen, and to those whom we yet hope to see, we must express our regret that we could not remain longer as one of you ; but, though out of your immediate sight, we shall still hope to be, as you are, borne in fraternal remembrance. Thus, and in this spirit, we close our labor of love, invoking for us all.

“ One sole baptismal sign,
One Lord below, above,
One faith, one hope divine,
One only watchword, Love ;
From different temples though it rise,
One song ascendeth to the skies.”

MICHIGAN.

Comp. John L. Mitchell, G. H. P., in his address, gives a new reason for granting special dispensations :—

“I have been asked for special dispensations to ballot on petitions out of time ; also, when for reasons shown, the annual election could not be held at the regular meeting. In most of these cases I have granted the relief sought for. I have been accustomed to consider the officers of our several Chapters as good men and Masons, having the interest of the Royal Craft at heart, and that they would not ask these favors as a means to get bad men into the Order, or to work it any injury. I have yet to learn that the granting of these dispensations has resulted in evil, and I would not restrict the power to grant, or the disposition to solicit these favors on all proper occasions.”

He gives a number of important decisions from which we take the following :—

“Question.—A brother is elected to receive the Chapter degrees. Before receiving them, a Companion who was present at the election, objects. Does it act the same as a black ball ?

Ans. By the action of our Grand Chapter, the objection made after a clear ballot, is the same as a black ball, and the candidate must be declared rejected. My own opinion is against this decision, when the Companion objecting was present at the balloting, unless the objection is based on facts arising or coming to the knowledge of the objector subsequent to the ballot. After passing the investigation of a committee and the scrutiny of a clear ballot, the successful candidate is entitled to know and answer, if he can, the objections made.

Question. A brother has been elected to the degrees of the Chapter and made a Mark-Master ; can a Companion who was present and voted for the candidate, and also present when the Mark degree was conferred, stop the conferring the other degrees, especially when there can be nothing found against said brother of any kind ?

Ans. If one degree has been conferred, the objection to further advancement must come in the form of specific charges against the candidate, which, if sustained, stops further work ; if no charges are made the H. P., at his pleasure, confers the balance of the degrees.”

Question. Is a companion eligible to the office of H. P. who has never served as King or Scribe ?

Ans. Yes. A Companion is, on the night of his exaltation eligible to an office in the Chapter, and should he be elected and installed H. P. in his Chapter, he is eligible to the office of G. H. P. of the Grand Chapter at its next Convocation.

Question. A Companion demits from a Chapter for the purpose of removal, he changes his mind and wishes to renew his membership, but a factious Companion objects, also to his sitting as a visitor in the Chapter. Can anything be done?

Ans. Having demited, he can return only on petition and a clear ballot.

Question. In the absence of the first three officers, can a P. H. P. open the Chapter and do the regular work?

Ans. No. One of the *Council* must be present.

Question. Would it be right or legal for a past K. to act in the absence of the proper officers, the same as a P. H. P.

Ans. No. It must be the present K. or S. to act in the absence of a superior officer.

Question. Are subordinate Chapters to obey the mandates of the Grand Body *prior* to the reception of the written (printed) proceedings of the Grand Chapter?

Ans. An edict of the Grand Chapter becomes operative from and after its passage. It is expected that every Chapter will be represented at the Annual Convocations, thus obtaining knowledge of its actions and be governed accordingly.

Question. A brother received in due form the degrees of the Chapter, but neglected to sign the Constitution and By-laws. For years he pays no dues and at length charges are preferred against him for non-payment of dues. The Companion feels much aggrieved thereby. What is his status?

Ans. If a companion has exercised the duties of membership, such as voting, balloting, etc., he should be considered a member and subject to the discipline of the Chapter. It is important that a member should sign the Constitution and By-laws. I would present them to this Companion to sign, and if he refuses, deal with him as the occasion demands.

Question. A Companion, known to us as such only by a demit,

his own statement, and several years residence in our jurisdiction, is put under charges by the Chapter for unmasonic conduct, and summoned to appear and answer to said charges. He answered in person and claimed the right to be admitted to the Chapter to defend himself. The Chapter asks these questions : 1st. Can he be admitted for the purpose of answering to said charges ? 2nd. If not, what is the proper course to pursue in his case ?

Ans. Your Chapter could not bring charges against any one but a *Royal Arch Mason*, and by bringing the charges you admit the validity of the demit and the standing of the Companion. In direct answer to your questions : 1st. You can admit no one to your Chapter unless you know them to be R. A. M. A demit is descriptive of the facts stated therein. 2d. You cannot try anyone you do not acknowledge as a R. A. M. It follows that you must admit him to answer to, or drop the charges."

We are glad to welcome another addition to our side of the "objection" question. His answer to the second question, and his opinion on the first, are in our opinion, perfectly correct.

As to the sixth answer, our practice is the opposite, so far as the officers of the Subordinate Chapters are concerned. We also differ on the 8th answer. In the absence of the First Principal, the immediate Past First Principal takes the chair with us. The other answers appear to be sound.

On finance he says :—

"In looking over our past financial history I can see no necessity of any change in our fundamental laws in this regard. In former years, with our present legitimate source of revenue and economical expenditure, we had accumulated quite a balance in the treasury, and it was only when we began to pay extravagant salaries that the balance turned against us. In our Masonic nomenclature I can find no such word as salary—it was an evil day to us when it was coined, and the sooner we strike it out the better. To serve in any place to which we may be called without hope of fee or reward should be our pride and glory—the quest of gold should never cross our threshold. You who come here to legislate for the Royal Craft, and those whom you have chosen to assist and preside over you, are entitled to this consideration, that our expenses be paid and nothing more."

And on Foreign Representation he speaks plainly :—

"In July last I received, under cover from Comp. Johnson, late

G. S., a communication from M. E. Jas. Seymour, G. Z. of the G. R. A. C. of Canada, in relation to the appointment of a representative of his G. C. near the G. C. of Michigan, and suggesting the name of R. E. Comp. Robert Kincade, G. J. of the G. C. of Canada, as our representative near his G. C. I answered by referring to your action of last winter, discouraging such relations between Grand Chapters. I have and do consider this mode of representation between grand bodies an empty form, resulting in no good to representative or bodies represented. We should be glad to receive the M. E. G. Z. of our sister jurisdiction on the other side of the river, or his direct representative, or from any of the thirty-eight Grand Jurisdictions with whom we are in correspondence, and we can assure them a right royal welcome if they will come and see us; but why give the empty honor, if honor there be, to one who never has and probably never will visit us. I declined recommending the appointment of any one here, and of course could make no appointment abroad."

A discussion took place on the Esoteric Word, but resulted in the whole matter being indefinitely postponed.

Grand Chapter adopted the following resolutions, which have our approval—the first reverses their previous regulation—viz:—

"RESOLVED, That whenever a candidate shall have been duly elected to take the Chapter Degrees, if objection be made by a Companion to his advancement it shall be the duty of the High Priest to require the objector to file charges and specifications against the brother, and in case he neglects or refuses to do so the High Priest may proceed to confer the degrees upon the candidate."

"RESOLVED, That every Companion exalted in a Chapter within this jurisdiction becomes by such exaltation a member thereof without signing the By-Laws, unless the work be done at the request of some other Chapter, in which case he becomes a member of the Chapter requesting the work."

Canada for 1874 receives notice, Comp. Innes says:—

"Your Committee heartily concur in the kindly expressions made relative to Comp. Harris, and can assure the Comps. of Canada that we of Michigan who know Comp. Harris deeply deplore his loss, and feel that Canada has cause to say 'Royal Arch Masonry has lost a power for good, in losing so great and good a man as Comp. Harris.'"

MINNESOTA.

The G. H. P. reports a reasonable degree of prosperity in this jurisdiction. He opened one new Chapter, called "Albert, at Sleepy Eye Lake.

We copy his decisions :—

"First.—Is the standing of a Companion affected by reason of his having been stricken from the roll of his Lodge for non-payment of dues ? and are there any decisions relative thereto ?

Answer.—The decision of the G. : G. : H. : P. :, agreed to by G. : G. : Chapter, 1874, is as follows : ' The effect of the suspension of a member of a Chapter of his Lodge for non-payment of dues, must be determined by the laws of his Grand Lodge. If the suspension is from membership only, his standing in the Chapter is not affected in the absence of regulations by his Grand Chapter.'

Second.—In case of absence of High Priest, would you grant a Dispensation to elect another ?

Answer.—No. The King of the Chapter succeeds to his place.

Third.—Is it lawful for a Chapter to suspend a member for non-payment of dues without due trial ?

Answer.—Sec. 3, Title 5, uniform code of By-Laws, reads : Any member in arrears for dues more than one year shall be subject to having his name erased from the roll of the Chapter. And Sec. 1, Title 7 : If any Companion shall be guilty of a Masonic misdemeanor—except for non-payment of dues—the Chapter may cause charges to be preferred, &c. Under this law, then, a Chapter may erase from its roll any such delinquent members without trial.

Fourth.—Is this in accordance with Masonic law and the landmarks of Masonry ?

Answer.—In answering this leading question I can only give a personal opinion, which is in the negative. The penalty attached to non-payment of dues makes it a misdemeanor. I do not see the justice of allowing to other Masonic offences full and impartial trial, and make an exception of this. Masonry is very much older than this modern system of pay dues or lose membership. I am of the opinion that our Chapters should be required to regularly and Masonically investigate the case of such delinquent member and ascertain if the non-payment be a Masonic offense.

No decisions I have given have been so unsatisfactory to my mind as those relating to suspension for non-payment of dues."

And also the report thereon, of the Committee on Jurisprudence, as adopted :—

"While the matters which have been referred to your committee at this session are not particularly intricate, yet as they are compelled to differ somewhat from the reasoning of the M. : E. : G. : H. : P. :, it would have been a source of gratification if more time had been allowed in which to frame the report.

1st. Relative to the decisions referred.

As an answer to the question proposed to the Grand High Priest, reported as he quotes, 'the decision of the G. : G. : H. : P. :, agreed to by the G. :, G. : Chapter in 1874,' which we submit *is not an answer to the question.*

Evidently the Grand High Priest regards *striking from the roll* and *suspension* as synonymous and convertible terms. Your committee are of the opinion that very much of the fog enveloping the penalty for non-payment of dues is attributable to this rather common *error.*

Striking from the roll deprives the party of certain privileges attending membership in a particular Chapter, but does not deprive him of his privileges as a Royal Arch Mason.

Suspension, on the contrary, throws him—during its continuance—entirely outside the pale of Masonry ; for the time being Masonic death. In this jurisdiction members in a Chapter are not dependent upon membership in a Blue Lodge, and hence, in the opinion of your committee, the standing of a Royal Arch Mason is not affected by reason of his having been stricken from the roll of his Lodge.

2nd. The answer of the G. : H. : P. : to a supposable case, meets the approbation of your committee.

3d. Your committee concur in the conclusion of the G. : H. : P. : as being in accord with the laws in this jurisdiction ; but the decision *is not an answer to the question reported by him.*

'Erase from the roll' is not 'suspension.' The quotations from the 'Uniform Code of By-Laws' are not applicable to the question submitted. Your committee are of the opinion that *it is not* 'lawful for a Chapter to *suspend* a man for non-payment of dues without due trial,' or for any other cause.

4th. Your committee are obliged to confess that they cannot see the point in the fourth question upon which a decision is reported, but as they are anxious to sustain the Grand High Priest, they concur in his 'personal opinion.'

Your committee are aware that in the minds of many of our companions, 'striking from the roll,' or 'erasing of names,' is regarded as equivalent to suspension, and fearing that those views might be strengthened by the reasoning of that part of the address referred to your committee, they desire to place the matter in what they deem the right light before the companions of this jurisdiction."

We agree with the Grand High Priest, and also with the Committee. The G. H. P. in giving his decision, was bound by the ruling of the General Grand Chapter, but there should be a distinction made between "suspension," and "striking from the roll." We believe the latter is the proper penalty for non-payment of dues. But we do not believe in placing non-payment of dues (which may be entirely involuntary on the part of the offender,) on a par, as far as punishment is concerned, with unmasonic conduct.

The following was adopted :—

"Resolved, That in the opinion of this Grand Chapter no persons are eligible to either the office of Grand High Priest or Deputy Grand High Priest but a Past or Present High Priest."

Comp. A. T. C. Pierson has a capital Report on Correspondence, in which Canada for 1874, receives a favorable notice.

Under the head of California we find the following :—

"We don't believe that a Mason's status should depend upon the amount of money he pays into the Lodge treasury. When 'it is the duty of every Mason to be a member of some Lodge,'—and we subscribe thereto most emphatically,—was first promulgated, there was no such thing as dues known. Each person present at a meeting was supposed to pay his share of the 'reckoning.'

Dues grew out of the necessity to provide for the expenses attending the meetings of a Lodge, in cases where the fees for initiation were insufficient to meet them and other expenses incident to the organization.

We do not advocate non-affiliation. But we claim that one may not 'be a drone in the hive' and yet not a member of a particular Lodge. We know Masons who never let a request for assistance go unheeded ; who visit the sick, watch over and care for the widow and the orphan, and are ever prompt in attendance upon the remains of a deceased brother to his long home ; faithful in all Masonic duties but that of belonging to a particular Lodge. Again, we know of others who promptly pay dues to a particular

Lodge, but never attend ; when assistance is asked, the applicant is referred to the Lodge ; is sickness to be soothed, the Lodge will attend to that ; does the widow or the orphan present a claim, that is a matter for the Lodge ; does a brother die, the Lodge will attend his funeral ; I pay my dues regularly—what more can you require ? Which is the ‘drone in the hive ?’

Each applies for ‘more light’ to receive the information contained in the Capitular degrees. According to the California rule the former could not receive it, while the latter might.

We are opposed to the system of dues, or rather to the principle that estimates a Mason according to whether he pays dues or not.”

We are glad to find that the differences between our opinions on the question of the day “objections after ballot,” are very slight. Under “Indiana,” Comp. Pearson thus comments :—

“We differ from each the G. : H. : P. : and the committee. We regard ‘objection’ after ballot as a *privilege*, not an absolute right. At regular meetings every member is expected to be present, and whatever is done absentees are bound to concur in, as it was their business to have been present. But in cases of balloting, a member unavoidably absent, upon making the fact known, may be accorded the *privilege* of objection without assigning reasons, if opposed to the candidate. But if present when a candidate is elected, he cannot subsequently interpose an objection without particularizing, and it must be information subsequently obtained.

No member has the right to trifle with co-members in any Masonic body, and a knowledge of matters that should prevent initiation or advancement should be made known or acted upon in the proper time ; that is, when the petition is being considered. A party that would vote favorably on and vote for a candidate, and then without further information interpose an objection, *should be disciplined*, in addition to having no attention paid to his ‘I object.’”

We say that the proper course for the “member unavoidably absent” to pursue, is to privately give to the presiding officer, his reasons or objections against the admission of the candidate, and if he finds these reasons sufficient, it is entirely in his power to stop the candidate without giving any reason, or he can state to the Chapter, that circumstances have come to his knowledge, since the ballot, that he considers sufficient to prevent any further proceeding. For such action as this the presiding officer is amenable to no authority. It is entirely a matter for his own discretion, and to be decided between him and his own conscience.

We are further of opinion that no intelligent presiding officer would refuse to give due weight to proper objections, thus privately placed before him by a member unavoidably absent when the ballot was taken. And we believe that this course is far preferable to the allowance, as of right, of unsupported objections after ballot.

Of course, in the above remarks, we are assuming that the "objections" are such as the objector has conscientious scruples against openly declaring—such as facts within his knowledge, as a legal or medical professional adviser—all other objections should be stated openly in the Chapter, and should be promptly followed by a charge and due trial.

MISSISSIPPI.

In consequence of the removal to Texas of the G. H. P. of Mississippi, M. E. Comp. Geo. R. Fearn, the duties of the office for 1874 devolved upon the Deputy G. H. P., R. E. Comp. John Y. Young, who appears to have performed his unexpected task with considerable promptness and decision.

From his address in 1875, we learn that the Royal Craft is in a prosperous condition, notwithstanding the unprecedented stringency in money matters, prevailing all over the state.

We regret to learn of the death of M. E. Comp. Henry C. Robinson, P. G. H. P., which occurred on Nov. 14th, 1874. He was a mason of great zeal and efficiency.

The following report of a Special Committee on the Past Master's degree, was adopted.

"Your committee to whom was referred the following resolutions, viz : 'That Chapter Past Masters, present when the Past Master's degree is conferred on the Master of a Lodge as a qualification for office, shall not assist in conferring more of that degree than is necessary for that purpose,' beg leave to report :

That they cannot conceive by what right a Chapter Past Master can confer the degree of Past Master, or any part of it, on a Master elect.

By our Permanent Regulations, no Chapter can confer it on any one who

has not received the Mark Degree, and been elected to all the degrees of a Chapter.

The truth is, the Past Master's degree was unknown to Capitular Masonry by the Ancient Charges and Regulations, and was improperly taken from Symbolic Masonry, to which it belongs as an Honorary Degree. It is wholly unknown to the Grand Chapter of England. It is not worked by the Grand Chapter of Ireland. It was once worked by the Grand Chapter of Scotland, but it has by it been returned to the Grand Lodge as a Chair Degree, and the Chapters of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, British Colonies and Shanghai, working under the Grand Chapter of Scotland, are only permitted to confer the degree as a Side-Degree, so long as the work remains as it now is in America.

The Past Master's Degree is a new one, and is worked only in America, and our Chapters must continue to work it until some general change is made. Your committee believe that it should then be surrendered to the Grand Lodges, as a Chair or Honorary Degree, to be communicated alone to Masters elect. The Grand Chapter of Rhode Island, which has not accepted, and is not bound to work the Ritual prescribed by the General Grand Chapter of the United States, has suggested, in an able Report, that the Degree shall not be conferred, but communicated.

Your committee can only express the hope that some Grand Convocation of the Representatives of all Grand Chapters may meet at no distant day, and may, in a spirit of mutual concession, adopt some Ritual for Chapter Degrees that will enable Capitular Masonry to work the same work and speak the same Masonic language in every nation. Your committee can see no impropriety in a Chapter Past Master being present at the conferring of the Past Master's Degree on a Master elect as a qualification degree, but no further.

Your committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution as a substitute for the one submitted to your committee, viz :

Resolved, That no Chapter Past Master, as such, has any power to confer the Past Master's Degree, or any part of it, on the Master of a Lodge as a qualifying Degree."

Hereafter no candidate can receive the M. E. M. degree, until he has selected his mark and had it recorded.

A by-law was amended to read as follows :—

"Sec. 20. Any Non-Affiliated Royal Arch Mason within the Jurisdiction of this Chapter, who shall neglect or refuse to contribute annually to its funds an amount equal to the ordinary Chapter dues, shall not be entitled to, nor permitted to receive or enjoy, the rights, benefits and privileges of

the Chapter—that is to say : The right to visit and associate with the regular members of the Chapter ; the right to ask and demand relief and pecuniary aid from the Chapter, or its funds, for himself or his family ; the right to move or join in processions with Chapter. *Provided, however,* That any Royal Arch Mason, in good standing, unable so to contribute, may be released from this restriction.”

Comp. H. W. Walter has a condensed Report on Foreign Correspondence. We extract two of his notices :—

“ITALY.—We learn from a distinguished Companion now in Italy, that Masonry is spreading with great rapidity through that kingdom ; that government prohibition is not only removed, but that King Emmanuel himself is a Mason and warm friend of the Order. Funds are being raised for the purpose of erecting a Temple in Rome—a Masonic Temple in the land of Cæsar and Cicero, St. Peters and the Vatican !

From the same source we learn, that the Order is in a healthy, progressive condition throughout the Continent, and hopes are entertained that the heavy and oppressive hand of the Russian Government will soon be lifted from the Order.

BRAZIL.—The proceedings of the Grand Orient of Brazil shows a most healthy and prosperous condition of the Order, and it enjoys the permanency and power, peculiar to the government of the country. the most stable of any of those of South America. Within the last three months it has granted twelve charters for new Lodges. There are subordinate to it 122 Lodges and 68 Capitulos (Chapters), and amongst the former is one York Lodge. Its proceedings contain a full review of our Order in most parts of the world. Joaquin Soldanha Marinho is Grand High Priest, and Alexandrino Freiredo Amaral, Grand Secretary.

1876.

The decisions of Comp. Murray are as follows :—

“Feb. 11. That it is not necessary to re-petition and refer to committee in a case where the Chapter fails to confer the degrees within six months from the date of election ; that it is only necessary in such cases to have a second ballot. This case was put by Companion D. A. Kinchloe, H. : P. : of Walker Chapter, No. 28. I advised the High Priest, in the event one member should object to the second ballot without a new petition, &c., for the sake of harmony in the Chapter, to postpone the ballot until the next regular meeting.

Aug. 28. The following questions were propounded to me by Companion J. G. Sparrow, H. : P. : of Edwards Chapter, U. : D. :

1st, Can Royal Arch Masons, who are made such in a Chapter U. D., ballot on petitions before the Chapter is chartered?

2d. Can a Chapter U. D. entertain applications for membership?

3d. Can a Chapter U. D. ballot on petitions for the degrees, when there are less than nine of the petitioners for the dispensation present?

To which I gave the following answers. To question 1st, Yes. To question 2d, No. To question 3d, Yes, *provided*, there are nine members of the Chapter U. D. present, a part of whom, however, may have received the degrees in the Chapter U. D.; with this remark: that members of other Chapters are not to be counted in reckoning the number to constitute a quorum for the election of candidates to the degrees."

And under the head "Doings," we find the following peculiar case:—

"March 10. I received a letter signed by two Companions, members of Carrollton Chapter, No. 15, stating that that Chapter had exalted a candidate who executed his note for the fees, and the consideration expressed in the face of the note was borrowed money; and that he refused to pay the note on the ground of failure of consideration, asserting that he was deceived as to the value of the degrees. These Companions asked what ought to be done in regard to the affair. In my reply, I advised that a special committee should be appointed by the Chapter to wait upon the refractory Companion and request him to pay the note, and inform him that it was not in its character like a note given in ordinary transactions, but that it carried with the promise to pay his Masonic word. If he still refused to pay, the committee should summon him to attend the next regular meeting of the Chapter, to render satisfaction for his delinquency and demeanor; and should he still further refuse to pay the debt, and also fail to attend the Chapter in pursuance of his summons, the Committee on Complaints and Offences should at once prefer charges against him for unmasonic conduct, embracing contumacy. I have not heard anything further from this case, but hope my advice had the desired effect."

It appears to us that the G. H. P. directed the proceedings to be taken against the wrong party. He should have suspended the Chapter, or, at all events, those members of it who were parties to the note transaction. The party who gave the note was not so much to blame as those who took it.

The G. H. P. assigns three causes for their want of prosperity. First.—The extraordinary stringency in financial matters generally; second.—Non-attendance at Chapter meetings; and third.—
• Failure to pay dues promptly.

Several suggestions were made in order to increase the funds of

Grand Chapter, and to get rid of debt, some of which were adopted, and the others laid over till next meeting.

Comp. H. W. Walter presented the Report on Correspondence, but only that part of it relating to the General Grand Chapter, was ordered to be printed. We are sorry to lose the benefit of Comp. Walters' labors, but as it is from motives of economy, we must submit.

MISSOURI.

The decisions of Rufus E. Anderson, G. H. P., are clearly and forcibly expressed. On one point he is in conflict with the General Grand Chapter. We quote as follows:—

“St. Louis Chapter, No. 8, suspended one of its members upon a charge of appropriating funds of the Chapter to his own use, “for two years, and until he refund the amount appropriated and make satisfactory apology to the Chapter.” Before the terms of the sentence had been complied with, at a regular communication of the Chapter, and without previous notice, on motion of a Companion, and by a *majority* vote, the Companion thus suspended was declared reinstated.

Decided—That, in order to restore a suspended Companion before the expiration of the time or terms of suspension had been complied with, petition must come from the applicant himself for reinstatement and lie over until the next stated meeting, and the members duly notified of the fact, when a vote of two-thirds of the Companions present shall be requisite thereto. Under this view of the law, I declare the action of St. Louis Chapter, No. 8, null and void.

Under application of O'Sullivan Chapter, No. 40, for permission to elect a Secretary in place of one who had been elected and installed, but whose business engagements prevented him from discharging the duties of the office, I held that an *installed* officer of the Chapter could *not* resign, and refused the petition.

At the late Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, held November 24, 1874, the following, reported by the Committee on Jurisprudence, was adopted :

‘Doubts having arisen in reference to the question as to the right of any Chapter to confer the Capitular Degrees upon a candidate previously rejected by any other Chapter, it is declared, by this General Grand Chapter, as the true law upon such subject, that no Chapter under this jurisdiction shall confer the Capitular Degrees on any candidate previously

regularly rejected by any other Chapter, without first procuring the consent of such rejecting Chapter, provided that such Chapter be in existence.'

In June, a case was presented calling for an interpretation of this decision of the General Grand Chapter, and we were asked, 'Does it require a vote by ballot to give consent, and, if so, does it require a unanimous ballot?'

Our Constitution declared that 'The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Missouri is the supreme head of Royal Arch Masonry in Missouri,' and Section 17 of Article 3 declares 'any candidate rejected for the degrees may renew his petition in the nearest Chapter to his residence, after the lapse of six months.'

Now here is a direct conflict, and we regard the decision of the General Grand Chapter as so utterly at variance with the well settled principles of Masonic Jurisprudence, and furnishing so powerful an engine of oppression to the bigoted Ishmaelite who now and then, despite every precaution, creeps into our Chapters, that we were at first disposed to invoke the doctrine of *States-rights* and instruct St. Joseph Chapter to disregard it. But, not wishing to rest under the charge of 'disloyalty,' we feel constrained to give it a *liberal* construction, and decided that a majority vote, manifested by the 'usual show of hands,' was all that was necessary. Any other interpretation of it would afford an opportunity to 'nail a candidate to the counter for life by the vindictive hammer of one man.'

The editor of *The Freemason*, in commenting on this decision, properly characterizes it as 'a strange and strong decision,' and well says :

'Rejection has, therefore, always been limited by time (generally twelve months), and we never before supposed that we had to get some Chapter in London to reverse its ballot, cast fifty years ago, on a candidate who has stood well in our Lodge here for nearly all that space of time. The General Grand Chapter, Grand Chapters and Subordinate Chapters never get outside of the well-established usages of Blue Masonry but they always 'put their foot in it,' and this last performance is no exception.'

A Masonic Lodge in Missouri waived jurisdiction over a candidate, and consented that he might be made a Mason in Hamburg, Iowa. The Chapter in Hamburg claimed that because the Blue Lodge had waived jurisdiction over the candidate, and that was his Masonic home, it has a perfect right to confer the Chapter Degrees on him, without consent of the Chapter nearest to his residence in Missouri; and I was asked for a decision by a companion of the Missouri Chapter.

Decided—That the waiver of jurisdiction by the Blue Lodge did *not* affect the jurisdiction of the Chapter, and that a resident of Missouri exalted in Iowa, without the consent of the Chapter in Missouri nearest his residence, was illegally made a Royal Arch Mason."

In speaking of his official visits, he has the following excellent sketch, and the supplementary remarks are good :—

"I have found it convenient to visit officially but few of the Chapters during the year. I have seen and heard enough, however, to convince me that some measures should be adopted by this Grand Body to compel all the Subordinate Chapters to supply themselves with the necessary 'tools and implements' to exemplify the work of the degrees. The 'furniture' of some of our Chapters, I am satisfied, is sadly deficient, and it requires a wonderful stretch of the imagination, upon the part of the candidate, to see the connection between the symbol used and the lesson intended to be explained. It was my province to be present in one of our old Chapters of the kind alluded to, a short time since, at the conferring of the Royal Arch Degree. The Masters of the Vails were without any of the necessary implements of their office—not even so much as a banner. Upon 'repairing to the scene of their labors,' the third time, the 'sojourners' observed, preserved and brought up 'from the ruins of the temple' what proved to be a veritable axe box, with the name of one of the merchants of the place (still living) inscribed upon the top of it, and that of a firm now engaged in the manufacture of 'IXL' axes in a neighboring State engraved upon the sides and end of it. Recognizing 'the eternal fitness of things,' we expected to find in it a copy of 'Wells' Form Book,' a pone of corn-bread, a 'big sun-flowere' and a smoke-house key; but, to our astonishment, it contained a Bible, and a straight, flat stick, which we took to be a side of the frame of one of the urchins' slates. If it ever 'blossomed and bore fruit,' it must have been of a relative kind, such as we gathered in one of our school-boy days, when, after figuring over the whole side of the slate, we failed to get the answer and received a vigorous application of birch. No 'key' was deemed necessary, as it was presumed all the candidates 'knew their letters,' and the characters upon the 'top and sides' of the box were in plain English. What the astonished discoverer took to be 'pure gold' overlying the top as the 'sun's rays fell upon it,' we were satisfied was nothing but a new axe laid out on top of the box for a sign. We were acting High Priest, and, having some experience in discussing and harmonizing conflicting testimony, we essayed the task of proving to the satisfaction of those faithful workmen that our 'three Ancient Grand Masters' had something to do with that axe box—that that merchant's name on the top was a 'tetragrammaton,' and that there would have been a triangle around it had there been room after putting on the name of the town and State. We insisted that IXL stood for '3,000,' and that the word 'Pittsburg' was the name of a Jewish town; and the contents of the box was intended for the benefit of wood-choppers in general and 'the Jewish nation in particular.' We did not wait to hear the 'verdict' of the 'three,' but would have been perfectly satisfied with a 'hung jury.'

Now, my Companions, is it any wonder that we have too many 'daubers,' and that to so many our beautiful ceremonies appear only a series of unmeaning rites? Is it not a burlesque, if not an insult, to their intelligence, with such an 'outfit' as we have described, to say to a candidate: 'I trust you have entered into the spirit of these solemn ceremonies and understand the full import of these interesting symbols?'

I suggest that you adopt a law forbidding the organization of any Chapter hereafter in this Grand Jurisdiction until it shall provide itself with the necessary implements for symbolizing the degrees, and that some coercive measures be adopted to compel the delinquent ones already organized to furnish themselves with them. To our mind it is as necessary as a 'suitable place' to meet."

The Committee in their report on this address, which was adopted, say :—

“Your Committee recommend the endorsement by this Grand Body of all the decisions of the Grand High Priest, as reported in his Address ; and, in addition to the decision made concerning jurisdiction over rejected candidates, we are of the opinion that the Constitution of the Grand Chapter of Missouri embodies the correct principles of Masonic law on this subject ; and, with all due respect to the wisdom of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, at its last Convocation at Nashville, recommend that all the Grand Chapters in the United States be requested to use their influence to have said law repealed at the next Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter.

We endorse most heartily the remarks of the Grand High Priest concerning the absolute necessity of the Chapters being fully provided with suitable furniture and implements for symbolizing the degrees, and recommend the adoption of the following :

RESOLVED, That no Chapter now under dispensation shall be set to work under charter, and no new Chapter shall be put to work under dispensation, until it shall have provided all furniture and implements necessary to give due effect to the solemn and impressive ceremonies of the several Chapter Degrees.

RESOLVED, That all Chapters now at work under charter be (and they are hereby) required to provide themselves with all necessary working tools, implements and furniture necessary to be used in the conferring of degrees, before the next Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter ; and, on failure so to do, the Grand High Priest is directed to arrest the charters of Chapters delinquent herein, and report his action in the premises.”

Comp. Gourley has a full report this time, and it is to be hoped that he will “backslide” no more. He reviews Canada for 1874, cautiously. He copies our notices of Scotland, and then says :—

“As indifferent as we are to almost anything the Masons of Scotland do, on account of their frigid selfishness and stilted seclusiveness, yet we do give her credit for not recognizing the Grand Mark Lodge of England, which had no more self-respect than to get itself mixed up in a tripartite treaty with the Convent General K. T. and the Supreme Council 33d, whereby she lost all sole penal jurisdiction over her own members, and lost to the members themselves, all rights and justice by appeal.

Although the Masonic Grand Bodies of Scotland are slower than the hour hand of eternity, yet the Grand Chapter did this thing right anyhow, and, for aught we know, she may do a good many other good things if she would only let the world know it.”

Under the head of District of Columbia, he thus comments on burial services :—

“Under the head of “Massachusetts,” he quotes the new burial service for Chapter use, which is like nearly all Masonic services of the kind ; but we cannot imagine when a Royal Arch Mason need be buried at a place where there is no Lodge, or the necessity for such service, unless it be to bury a Royal Arch Mason who is not in good standing in his Lodge. We can imagine such a case under the very singular laws of that State, wherein a man may be suspended for non-payment of dues, and yet be considered in “good Masonic standing” in every other Masonic Body in that State, except in *his own Lodge*.

‘The world moves,’ and so may the Massachusetts funeral procession ; but it is ‘no funeral of ours,’ and if the corpse can stand it, we can.

The American system of the York Rite can now give the Scotch Rite two in the game, so far as planting human bodies is concerned, for with thirty-three degrees they have only one ceremony, while we, with only twelve degrees, have three, so that if one of our members is buried by the *blue* of the Lodge, the *scarlet* of the Chapter, and the *black* of the Commandery, his friends on resurrection morning will think he died of spotted fever, and if the Bay State will only invent the *purple* ceremony of the Cryptic degrees, then every fellow with wings will swear that the man surfeited himself to death on speckled trout ; and if they had ever lived in the Northwestern States, they would not blame him for it, either. ‘Please do not crowd the mourners.’

If any other Grand Chapter has some chronic pall-bearer who is chuck full of burial performances, we beg it to expel him, or put him on a committee to borrow the one from Massachusetts, else we will have two forms in the Chapter, and then the General Grand Chapter will be drawn into the vortex to decide which is right, and that might be the death of that dignified body, whose principle function at present is to solemnly elect officers and shake hands like the elders at a Quaker meeting. For mercy’s sake don’t stir up any more.”

He has the following on the practice in Indiana, of opening the Grand Chapter, by first opening a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

“If the Grand Chapter of Indiana has any doubts about its being the sovereign R. A. power for that State, old enough and able enough to open itself and pass upon its own credentials, without the formula of putting out the job to a party of R. A. Masons, acting without Charter or By-Laws, then we will move for her recognition over again, and will guarantee a like support from the G. G. Chapter and Chapters of the United States.”

Comp. Gourley answers the remarks of Comp. Henderson, of Kentucky, on the connection between Masonry and the Church. He asks “what Church?” and then says :

“Masonry insists upon her disciples being ‘good men and true,’ and teaches them the grandest and highest system of morality capable of being brought into practice by mortals, and, goes further, it covenants them one towards the other to perform these duties. Freemasonry is indifferent whether the world likes this or not. She asks no odds of the world; nothing except her constitutional rights as a society of honorable, upright and loyal citizens under the laws of their country. She draws no lines between the North or South, East or West on any part of the surface of the earth; nor does she attach herself to any particular Church, or attack any. A man has got to be a good man to become a member of the Fraternity, and the question as to what Church made him such, is not asked; only this: Did God Almighty first make him one in his heart?”

To try to make Freemasonry a vestibule of any Church, or the Church an adjunct of Freemasonry, is wrong to either one or the other, for they are not similar in their construction, and it is only by comparisons that they can be made antagonistic. No, Companion HENDERSON, let our institution stand alone upon the foundations of its own eternal principles of truth, and if that is not enough, let it go down. We ask no recruits. By our works shall we be known as a universal brotherhood.”

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Comp. Wm. Barrett, G. H. P., opens his address with the announcement of the death of the venerable Horace Chace, which took place on March 1st, 1875. He was 87 years old, and had been a Mason for 60 years. He held prominent offices in all the Grand Bodies, and was deservedly respected and esteemed.

Comp. Barrett reports peace and harmony, and no complaints worth mentioning.

The Committee on Jurisprudence have an elaborate report on a question of Jurisdictional rights between two subordinate Chapters. In the course of their remarks they say:—

“It is an old provision, incorporated under the eye of the most eminent members of the craft; but, as a matter of history, jurisdictional limits are of comparatively modern origin, and form no part of the landmarks. When Grand Chapters were created they were invested with the broad power to create new Chapters. There were no limits except what might be imposed by the Grand Constitution, or the sound discretion of the Grand Body. We can never remould human nature by legislative enactments. There is no power which may not be abused. Power must be lodged somewhere; and, if we were to build anew, we must assume as a rule, that those who are intrusted with it will in the main, act sensibly, honestly and justly. The supreme Masonic authority—the Grand Chapter—has the broad power to create new Chapters in such way and manner as, in the exercise of a sound discretion, it deems best, subject only to the limitations imposed by the landmarks, and the Grand Constitution. The power to revive or restore is merely a special form of the general power to create. The subordinate Chapters cannot palsy the power of the Grand Chapter to which they owe their own existence. The power to create is a continuing power to be exercised from time to time by the Grand Body, as it may judge will best promote the welfare of

the Craft. It has the same power to create Chapter No. 2, that it had to create Chapter No. 1; and as a necessary incident to this, the power to make its action effective, the power to fix the limits of each new as well as old, subordinate Chapter, so far as the Grand Constitution has not hedged its power about with restrictions. Anciently, in this State, any person who did not live in a town where a Chapter existed had the right to apply to any Chapter in the State. It became necessary in the process of time, to provide for fixing their limits, and this was done by the Grand Constitution."

Comp. Nathan P. Hunt has a sensible Report on Correspondence, in which our proceedings for 1874 are noticed.

NEW JERSEY.

Peace and harmony prevail throughout this jurisdiction. Comp. Wolverton reports his official acts as few, and those of a pleasant and harmonious character. He gives three decisions, as under :

"No. 1. The reinstatement of an expelled member, in his Lodge, does not restore him to membership in the Chapter.

No. 2. The petition of a candidate for initiation to the Capitular Degree of Masonry must be recommended by at least two members of the Chapter to which he applies for admission.

No. 3. An expelled Companion can only be restored by petition and ballot, which ballot must be unanimous."

These decisions were copied by the Grand Chapter, although the Committee on Constitutions reported adversely to the third; holding that the vote which inflicts the penalty, is the only competent vote to restore, after petition and ballot. On this point we agree with the G. H. P., and differ from the Committee.

The Committee on History presented the following report :—

"The Committee on the 'History of Royal Arch Masonry in New Jersey' would respectfully beg leave to render a final report. The members of the committee feel much regret that they have been able to accomplish so little, but this has not been the result of neglect or inattention on their part, as they have used every means in their power to procure information upon the subject. While our labors have not been crowned with entire success, still it is a source of gratification to us, as it will doubtless be to the members of the Grand Chapter, that we have been able to trace, with the reasonable degree of thoroughness, the history of our Royal Art in this State from its origin, in 1805, up to

the time of the formation of our present Grand Chapter, in 1857, since which time the records are full and complete."

The History was ordered to be published with the proceedings, and \$100 was voted to the chairman, Comp. Corson, for his expenses in preparing the same. The publication however, is deferred for another year with a view of supplying some deficiencies, and making it complete.

The new Grand Chapter of Colorado was recognized.

Comp Corsou thus opens his notice of Canada :—

"Our Companions just over the border send us the proceedings of the Seventeenth Annual Convocation, held in October, 1874, in a neat pamphlet of about one hundred and fifty pages, clothed in an overskirt of 'bonny blue,' on which appears the impression of a formidable looking seal, on which are inscribed the words '*Audi Vide Tace.*' The first we will most cheerfully do, for we are always glad to *hear* from our Canadian Companions; the second we would glantly do if we could, for it would delight us to *see* them; the third we positively refuse to do, for it would be sinful to *be silent* about those who are, to all intents and purposes, *of us*, notwithstanding we inhabitant different political divisions of our continent."

He also says :—

"On the principle that 'every crow thinks her own children the whitest,' Companion Robertson claims that the Canada work is 'the only real Simon Pure on this side of the Atlantic.' Poor fellow; we can excuse him for this harmless insanity, for he has never seen the Jersey work. When the Western youth returned home from his visit to New York, he was asked what he thought of that city, to which he very complacently responded—'Well, New York is a rather nice sort of town, but it can never amount to much, because it is too far away from Indianapolis.'"

Under the head of Florida, we find the following on uniformity of work :

"Companion Driggs declares that 'the want of uniformity in the esoteric work is the bane of Masonry in any jurisdiction.' We utterly repudiate the apothegm. In the first place absolute uniformity in language is utterly unattainable. No two men can tell the same story in the same words. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John all gave the same

history of the Master's life, but they do not use the same language. For twenty years we have heard enthusiasts, honest but crazy, advocate the necessity of absolute uniformity of 'work;' we have heard it repeated over and over again that uniformity was the vital essence which alone can give life, health and strength to Masonry; we have known Grand Lecturers who have been most paralyzed with horror, if they heard an 'if,' 'and,' 'but,' 'to,' or 'or,' as if the whole fabric of Masonry would be shattered thereby. We have some knowledge of 'Mnemonics,' 'Custodians of the Work,' 'Keys,' 'Ciphers,' &c., and yet we never knew, we never heard of, any jurisdiction where this will-o'-the-wisp was secured. It is right and proper that a certain amount of uniformity should be observed; but when you insist that absolutely the same words, the same phrases, the same gesticulations, the same modulations of voice should be used everywhere, and by everyone who does the work, you make mere automatons, chattering Poll Parrots of the officers, and crush the very life out of Masonry. In presenting our tithes of mint, anise and cummin in such minor and unimportant matters, we neglect the weightier matters of the law. In wasting our energies in studying words, words, words, we have no time to devote to the history, symbolism and real signification of Masonry."

On the right of "objection after ballot," Comp. Corson, after quoting some remarks of Comp. Ogden, of New York, thus proceeds:—

"When we read that, we gently said to ourself, Ah, ha!—in fact we believe that, after giving our meerschaum a few deliberate whiffs, we smiled just a little. Let Dadmun and Robertson read that, and they will see that Ogden doesn't believe the doctrine which he has been so loudly proclaiming. Now, Companion Ogden, stand right up to the rack and take your fodder—no grumbling, no kicking, no pulling back. You have repeatedly said, 'Any member may object to the advancement of a candidate—he cannot be compelled to make known the reasons for his objection—the candidate cannot be advanced until these objections have been removed' (we do not pretend to give your exact words, but this expresses the idea which you and others have so stoutly maintained.) Now you tell us that the 'right of objection must be used within reasonable bounds;' but you do not tell us how to define these bounds. You say that objection 'must not be captious'—it 'must not be the offspring of private feeling or personal spite,' and that if such motives actuate the objector, that then his objection 'should not be heeded.' All of which is just, right, honorable and honest; but how can you discover the motives of the objector, if he is not bound to make

known the reasons of his objection? We say, let the objector show cause why the elected candidate should be stayed, and if that cause is well founded, let the candidate drop—if it is not, let the objector drop. Come, thou good Darius, acknowledge the ‘almighty force and power of truth;’ forsake the error of your ways, recant your false faith and be on the side of strict justice to all. Dadmun shall shrive you for your past sins; Robertson will give you a bond of indemnification for the future, and we will administer such medicaments as your exhausted physical condition may seem to require; so that, by the aid of Theology, Law and Medicine, we will exercise the evil spirit which has so long led you astray, and you shall be made sound and whole.”

We also copy the conclusion of this excellent report :

“Without any wish to be egotistical, and with no desire to obtrude myself upon the public, I feel that duty requires that I should make some acknowledgment of the words of sympathy, comfort and consolation which have been sent me from every quarter. These kind words from loving hearts have cheered and encouraged me more than I have power to express. To one and all of my dear Companions who have for and with me, I return my most sincere and heartfelt gratitude. Sorrow and affliction have visited me, and my very soul has been overwhelmed with grief, but at no time have I lost faith in the wisdom and goodness of the kind Father who loveth all of his children. I know not why these severe trials are sent, but I do know that it is for some wise and beneficent purpose. Although I can hardly claim to be able to say, with the Apostle, ‘I have learned in whatever state I am, therewith to be content;’ still, I have not repined, or become despondent.

Let us remember, Companions, that each of us has solemn duties to perform, and let us perform those duties with all our heart and soul, our mind, body and strength, for such service only will be accepted by our Master. Each has his burden to bear, his sorrows to endure, and ‘the heart that knoweth his own bitterness;’ but how light and trifling are they when compared to the reward which will follow well-doing. Let each of us, then, bearing with patience and resignation such trials as may fall to our lot, be constant in duty, at let us at all times be ready to obey the Master’s call, ‘Follow me.’

“ And him evermore I behold,
Walking in Galilee,
Through the corn-fields’ waving gold,
In hamlet, in wood, and in wold,
By the shores of the beautiful sea.
He toucheth the sightless eyes,
Before Him the demons flee ;
To the dead He sayeth, ‘ Arise !’
To the living, ‘ Follow Me !’
And that voice still soundeth on
From the centuries that are gone
To the centuries that shall be.
From all vain pomps and shows,
From the pride that overflows,
And the false conceits of men ;
From all the narrow rules
And subtleties of schools,
And the craft of tongue and pen ;
Bewildered in its search,
Bewildered with the cry,
‘ Lo here ! Lo there ! the Church !’
Poor, sad Humanity,
Through all the dust and heat,
Turns back with bleeding feet,
By the weary road it came,
Unto the simple thought
By the Great Master taught,
And that remaineth still :—
*Not he that repeateth the name,
But he that doeth the will.’ ”*

Since writing the above, we are deeply pained to learn that Comp. Corson has sustained another severe affliction in the death of his wife, which occurred in March last. We tender our esteemed Companion our heartfelt sympathy in his many trials.

NEW YORK.

Comp. Chaffee delivered an excellent address. His opening remarks are well worthy of attention :

“ During the official year now closing, the progress of the Royal Craft in this jurisdiction has been marked by harmony and quietude, and there has been, as a general thing, a larger degree of prosperity

than, under the circumstances affecting the people at large, we could reasonably have expected ; and I am free to confess my belief that, in this somewhat lessened rate of speed, we shall eventually find a real blessing, not because there is any danger of there being too many Royal Arch Masons, but that an occasional rest will give us time to scrutinize our work, and assure ourselves that we are not making too many in name and too few in reality. When we contemplate the enormous increase of the past few years we cannot deceive ourselves with the idea that all the persons admitted to assist in the building have been just such blocks as are needed to make good and square work, and hence to a certain extent we have marred the symmetry of the Temple, by failing to give sufficient time to the scrutiny and selection of material.

It appears to me that as custodians of Royal Arch Masonry in this jurisdiction, and as the successors of the devoted and illustrious companions who have passed the veils of this earthly tabernacle forever, leaving us to bear up the banners and march steadfastly beneath them, our duty is to magnify our office ; to have a care that only the good, the faithful, the earnest and true are permitted a place among the workmen. Were it absolutely certain that such, and such only, would always be admitted, I should delight to see a Chapter established in every hamlet in the State ; but as it is, an occasional halt and greater care cannot fail to raise the standard and give the Royal Art more power and consideration among those whose good opinion is a strong tower of defence."

He then gives a sketch of the life of Comp. Jackson H. Chase, Grand Lecturer, who died on the 14th of August last, deeply lamented and regretted. He was Grand Lecturer for eight years and was the author of "The Royal Arch Companion," and "The Text Book of Cryptic Masonry." To him, the Craft in New York are greatly indebted for the beauty and purity of their ritual, and the uniformity with which it is now generally worked. He was very highly esteemed and respected by all, and his death will be deeply felt by the Companions.

As to the necessity of appointing a successor, Comp. Chaffee says :

"Pertinent to this subject, your attention is invited to the consideration of the question, whether, for a few years at least, we need the services of a Grand Lecturer, at least as a salaried officer. It is beyond question that the labors of Companion CHASE have resulted in placing

our subordinates in such working order that they do not need instruction ; being able, I venture to assert, to render our sublime rituals with appropriate form and emphasis and with marvelous uniformity.

During the past year, up to the death of the Grand Lecturer, scarcely a call had been made on me for his services, and this fact, with my own observation, leads me to the conclusion that our needs in this direction will be fully subserved by the appointment of one or more custodians of the work, to whom all questions touching the ritual, should any such arise, may be referred, and who, at each annual convocation, shall be required to exhibit the work for the benefit of the assembled companions."

He visited a large number of subordinates, and found them enjoying a reasonable share of prosperity. We copy some of his decisions :

"That when a companion has been dropped from the roll of his Lodge for non-payment of dues only, such action does not deprive him of his general standing as a Mason, but only of his rights of membership in his Lodge, hence his relations to his Chapter remain unimpaired and subject only to the provisions of its own By-laws.

That it is the undeniable right of a member in good standing in his Chapter, to demand a ballot on the advancement of a candidate.

The question of distance between Chapters is not to be decided by the facilities of travel, but by the actual measurement, or in other words, geographically.

That a companion clear of the books of his Chapter, and against whom no charges are pending, is entitled, on request, to a demit.

That suspension or expulsion by a Lodge for a Masonic offence deprives a companion of his rights in the Chapter, without a trial *de novo* in the Chapter."

He thus remarks on the dedication of the new Masonic Hall, in the City of New York in June, 1875 :—

"It will not be needed that I should attempt to sketch for you the proceedings of that eventful day, but only that I should say that while all the recognized branches of Masonry were represented in the most imposing pageant and ceremonial Masonry has ever witnessed on this continent, the companions of the Royal Art were in no wise remiss in the performance of their share of duty."

In the report of the Deputy G. H. P., Comp. Geo. Van Vliet, we find the following :—

“March 29th, 1875, charges were preferred by M.: E.: Comp. JOSEPH SMYTH, against M.: E.: Comp. WM. H. HOUSNER (both of HOPE CHAPTER, No. 244,) for refusing to ballot when called for. At the time the charges were received I considered it a Masonic offense, and accordingly appointed a commission to try the charges. This commission reported that no offense had been committed, inasmuch as our laws do not make it obligatory on the High Priest to spread a new ballot when called for. The result of searching our constitution and subsequent proceedings was such as to induce me to approve of the report of that commission. I trust that some action will be taken by the Grand Chapter, defining more definitely the law on this particular point.”

The Grand Secretary, Comp. C. G. Fox, also has an excellent report. On the decrease of membership he has the following sensible remarks :

“It will be observed, from the foregoing statement, that the number of affiliated Royal Arch Masons has decreased during the past year, and that the Grand Chapter of New York, with its one hundred and ninety subordinates, has made no progress in the increase of its membership during that time. This fact will doubtless occasion surprise, and lead to a consideration of the causes that have produced so inauspicious a result.

Among the causes that suggest themselves as productive of a serious loss of membership is that of suspension for the non-payment of Chapter dues, which has gradually increased from year to year until the practice has attained considerable proportions, affecting not only individual companions and subordinate Chapters in their relations to each other and the Craft, but the revenue of the Grand Chapter as well. Indeed, suspension by wholesale has become quite common, and many Chapters have recently availed themselves of the power given them by the Constitution, and have suspended thirty, forty, fifty and even sixty per cent. of their respective memberships at one time, and without notice, for the non-payment of dues—a condition of things not altogether creditable to their management.

As affecting the finances of the Grand Chapter, taking the year 1868 as a criterion, when the maximum of exaltations and the minimum of suspensions were reached, an examination of the table of statistics as published from year to year will show a gradual reduction in the former and a rapid increase of the latter until last year, when the number of exaltations had decreased about forty per cent., and the suspensions increased nearly seven hundred per cent. as compared with the number of each as reported in 1868, thus reducing the revenue of the Grand Chapter in both directions. One need not be an adept in the science of numbers to be enabled to calculate correctly the result that must necessarily follow such a marked change of membership from year to year. The number of exaltations cannot be materially increased or diminished by any action of the Grand Chapter, but prudent legislation will operate to prevent undue haste at least in

the suspension of companions for the non-payment of dues, and protect at the same time the finances of the Grand Chapter.

The Constitution gives subordinate Chapters the power to suspend their members for a neglect to pay dues after a certain length of time, but it does not prescribe any method of procedure in the infliction of the penalty; and it is undoubtedly true that in a large majority of instances suspension is declared without notice of any kind to the delinquent companions. On that account alone great injustice is often done, not only to the individual, but to the subordinate and the Grand Chapter, in depriving him of certain privileges, and them of his membership as a source of revenue. The remedy for the alleviation of the evil thus referred to will readily suggest itself, and the matter deserves the serious attention of the Grand Chapter."

The following resolutions were adopted:—

"RESOLVED, That the degrees of Capitular Masonry must be *conferred* in Chapters under this jurisdiction, and not *communicated*; and any Chapter violating this regulation is liable to charges, and, on proof of the commission of the offense, the warrant of the offending Chapter shall be declared forfeited in accordance with the provisions of Sec. 45 of the Constitution.

"RESOLVED, That it is the right of any companion in good standing to demand a ballot on the advancement of a candidate, and it is the duty of the High Priest to spread the ballot thereupon.

RESOLVED, That the Grand Chapter of Nevada and the Grand Chapter of Colorado are hereby recognized as in all respects regularly and duly constituted, and that we bid them a hearty welcome to the fold, and recommend that our Grand High Priest take measures for an interchange of representatives.

RESOLVED, That our construction of section 33 of the Constitution is that evidently intended by its framers and by the language of the section itself, namely, that the warrant of a Chapter can only be lawfully surrendered by the affirmative vote of the majority of its whole membership, when duly summoned for the purpose."

A motion to place \$500 at the disposal of the G. H. P., for a Grand Lecturer, was not agreed to.

Several members were received as Representatives from other Grand Chapters, and we are pleased to copy the response of the venerable Comp. John W. Simons, whose words are always worth listening to:—

"The companions accompanying me, and representing the Grand Chapters, the names of which have been recited in your hearing, having honored me with

the post of spokesman, I desire to say that we appreciate, and in behalf of our constituents warmly return not only your cheerful and fraternal greeting, but the generous and kindly words in which our M.: E.: Past General Grand High Priest has been pleased to convey your welcome on this occasion.

We especially feel the honor of the appointments now confirmed by you, in that, aside from any distinction that may have been awarded us by our immediate companions and friends, it is henceforth to be our great privilege by our presence at these annual gatherings to convey to you the salutations of the Grand Bodies we represent, and thus assure you that whenever you meet our constituencies are not only with you in spirit but also in the person of companions who have wrought by your side in the task allotted us, and who may reasonably claim to have a place in your fraternal esteem and sympathy.

We are here, too, Most Excellent, as exponents of the underlying idea of the system of mutual representation between cognate bodies; which is not that we should undertake to commit our constituents to any line of policy, or make them responsible for any action upon which they have not deliberated, but only that in us, and in the fact of our presence, and by the authority of our commissions, there should be made manifest that spirit of love, unity, and fellowship which are the characteristics of the Royal Art; that it may be made apparent that our real interest is not so much in the progress and prosperity of the restricted circle in which we move, as in the harmony and prosperity of the Craft wherever its members may be dispersed.

In this spirit, Most Excellent, we accept your greeting, and return you the warm grasp of fellowship, praying that it may ever extend until at last one glittering fraternal arch may span the entire earth, and make us one and inseparable, now and forever."

The Report on Correspondence is by Comps. Ogden, Hoffman and Dederick, and is fully up to the high standard of former reports emanating from New York. Our proceedings for 1874 receive a good notice.

We quote as follows:—

"Comp. ROBERTSON has quite a tilt with Comp. LEWIS, of Connecticut on the subject of 'objection to the advancement of candidates, and the effect of such objection.' It is the old question of the right of a member to object without giving reasons, and thus stay the advancement of an elected candidate, and the right of the candidate to receive all the degrees unless arrested by charges duly made, &c. We go with Comp. LEWIS on the question, believing that the right of the member is above that of the candidate; and while we admit that the rule, like all general rules, is liable to abuse, and may thus in some cases work evil, yet, involving, as it does, a cardinal principle, must be sustained. We would like Comp. ROBERTSON to tell us how a Mark Master Mason is to be tried in a Royal Arch Chapter, and, if not, of what avail are the charges against him? And what has a Royal Arch Mason to do with charges in a Blue Lodge? It is not often that the

extreme rule will be applied, of arresting the progress by an arbitrary disclosure, but there are cases when it is the only action which a companion can take to prevent the exaltation of an unworthy person—in such case it may and should be used.”

And in reply, would simply say, that we would try a Mark Master Mason, in a Mark Lodge ; which is just the place where he ought to be tried ; and if the charges are sustained there, he is effectually prevented from advancing, and is so prevented in a perfectly fair and logical manner. Having had a fair trial, he can have no ground of complaint—good reasons have been shown why he should not be permitted to advance, and he is therefore stopped. On the other hand, however, if stopped, after a unanimous ballot, by a simple objection, he would have a just cause for complaint, and would, in our opinion, be perfectly justified in demanding the reasons why this stigma was cast upon him.

We are pleased however, to notice, in reading this report further on, that Comp. Ogden is being rapidly converted to our way of thinking, as witness these extracts from his remarks on Massachusetts, Minnesota and New Jersey :—

“ We say just this to it : That any companion who made objection upon mere rumor, would withdraw it at once when the ‘ rumor had vanished into thin air.’ We have never said that no one had a right to question the objector. On the contrary, we think that any companion has a right to question him, and ascertain whether the objection is valid, or to ascertain whether it cannot be removed. What we do say and think is, that you may not force the objecting member to withdraw his objection, or to yield his right, only as he does it voluntarily—which he would do in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred if satisfied that he was mistaken. Our view of the question is this : if a companion is present and votes, and the ballot is clear, he is foreclosed from objecting without stating the grounds ; but that a companion *not* present may, as a Masonic right, interpose an objection at any time, and demand a ballot before further progress is made.” * * *

“ We do not subscribe to all that Comp. PIERSON says in his comments on Indiana, yet there is much good sense in it. 1st. That a companion who was present when a candidate was elected, and voted for him, should not be permitted to object afterward without stating his reasons, and those reasons must be founded upon information and knowledge subsequently obtained. This is good sense, and ought to

be good law ; but the exact facts the objector might, under some instances, not be at liberty to disclose ; but objecting he should say, that since the election he had information which rendered it improper for the candidate to progress." * * *

"On another question, worthy companion, we "stand right up to the rack and take the fodder," for it is wholesome. Without doubt the member of a Chapter may foreclose his future action. A receipt against a promissory note forecloses as to its future payment to the person giving the receipt of payment. So a member of a Chapter, who reports in favor of and votes for a candidate to receive the capitular degrees, is foreclosed from objecting thereafter, unless for causes subsequently brought to his knowledge, and in that event he should so state. This is the law of common sense, common honesty, and must be good Masonic law. Nor does it at all contravene the general principle of the right of a member to object. All that it settles is, that having once used the right he is foreclosed ; in other words, having once cast a white ball, he cannot withdraw it and substitute a black one, unless the candidate by subsequent conduct, or from knowledge not before possessed, becomes unworthy ; even then a member can only avail himself of the objection by so stating and affirming."

NORTH CAROLINA.

Comp. Horace H. Munson, G. H. P., delivered a brief address, from which we make a few extracts. He thinks the migratory system a good one.

"Companions, in order that the growth of our Chapters might be stimulated, and their prosperity thereby increased, the Grand Chapter, at its last session, thought it wise and proper to remove from the location where its deliberations had so long been held, to a wider and more general field of labor. We have, therefore, taken a new departure, started out upon an untried path, and I am free to say, in my opinion a successful one. Nothing, it seems to me, could better be done to awaken a deeper interest in Capitular Masonry, than to bring it immediately home to the hearts and minds of its votaries. By the migratory system, (sought to be established,) we reach those who need only the awakening influence of a Grand Chapter Convocation, to arouse their sluggish zeal, and give direction and energy to their undiminished hopes and desires."

He again asks Grand Chapter to decide this question, viz :—

Does non-affiliation in a Lodge work a corresponding non-affiliation in the Chapter?

He calls attention to the healthful growth of their Orphan Asylum, and recommends its assistance.

He reports one decision which is perfectly sound, viz :—

“The following question alone undecided in the past, has been submitted for my decision, “Is it necessary to give reasons when applying for a certificate of dimission?” I answer—None whatever. Masonry is a voluntary organization. She admits none knowingly within her folds, but such as come of their own unbiased free will and accord. She throws around them the kindly arm of her loving protection, she watches over their interests, aids their distresses, and sympathises in their sorrows, but, when her votaries desire a release, she opens her arms and bids them go in peace.”

The Grand Chapter decided correctly the question above mentioned, viz :—

“RESOLVED, That the standing of a Royal Arch Mason, in a Royal Arch Chapter, is not affected by any action of a Blue Lodge, except in case of expulsion or suspension.”

On motion of Comp. B. F. Rogers, the question of eligibility of the Grand High Priest to the office of High Priest of a Chapter, was referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, with instructions to report at the next Annual Convocation.

It is our opinion that these two offices should not be held by the same individual at the same time. It might be a little awkward if the District Deputy G. H. P. should be called on to suspend the Chapter (for some irregularity) of which the G. H. P. was the presiding officer.

Comp. James Southgate is the author of the report on Foreign Correspondence, which is a well written paper on the transactions of thirty Grand Chapters, including Canada for 1874. He thinks our report for that year has too little original matter, being nearly all extracts. He says, “We can’t review extracts. Give us a few extracts from Comp. Robertson, and we won’t quarrel, you may be sure.

We would be very glad to oblige you, Comp. Southgate, but our own constituents have something to say in this matter. If we were to launch out, just for once, they would be considerably surprised, (at the printer's bill,) and we can easily imagine a deputation of indignant readers, insisting upon "interviewing us"—the burden of whose cry would be—

"Give us extracts, more and more,
"And of Robertson, the less we hear,
"The better,
"Only this and nothing more."

NOVA SCOTIA.

Comp. S. R. Sircom, G. H. P., in his address, says :

"The custom now so universally adopted of printing the proceedings of each Grand Chapter, together with the reports of Committees on Foreign Correspondence, and transmitting copies to sister jurisdictions, has resulted most beneficially to the whole Order, and I firmly believe it has done more in bringing about the present uniformity in the administrative affairs of the Royal Craft, and also of drawing more closely together its members in fraternal union, than could have been accomplished by any other means."

He made a number of official visits, and found the Chapters in general, working well.

In the report of the Committee on his Address, we find the following :

"The views of the M. E. Grand High Priest relative to the printing of the proceedings of this Grand Chapter, together with the reports of foreign correspondence, and transmitting copies to Sister Jurisdictions, meet with our warmest approval; and we also agree with him that a well stocked Library would be a valuable acquisition to the Grand Chapter, and hope that the funds will enable it, at no distant day, to carry out this desirable object."

And from the Minutes of the Committee of General Purposes, we quote as under, viz :—

"On motion, it was resolved unanimously :

‘That the Communication from the Committee of Union Chapter, No. 108, R. S., Yarmouth, be received ; and that the Grand Secretary be authorised to answer the several queries contained therein as follows :’—

Question 1st.—‘Would Union Chapter be permitted to retain its old Charter re-issued by the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia? If not, what would be the expense of a new Charter?’

Ans.—Yes, with permission of the Grand Chapter of Scotland ; but in order to prevent delay would recommend you to surrender your present Charter to the Grand Chapter of Scotland, paying all just demands against you by the Grand Chapter of Scotland, and apply for a new Charter to the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia, the cost of which would be only for engrossing and the parchment.

Question 2nd.—‘Are Rituals issued by the Grand Chapter, and are they supplied gratis to the Subordinate Chapters?’

Ans.—No, The Esoteric work is only in MSS., and would be loaned to the M. E. High Priest under necessary restrictions.

Question 3rd.—‘Are there any yearly dues payable by Subordinate Chapters, or are they exempt (as under the Scottish Jurisdiction)!’

Ans.—The dues to the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia are twenty-five cents annually for each member.

Question 4th.—‘What are the fees for Enrolment and Diploma?’

Ans.—Fees are as follows (see Constitution p. 91, Proceedings 1872-3) viz :—

Grand Chapter Certificate.....	\$1.50
Registry of every candidate for Exaltation.....	1.00

Also to state to Union Chapter, Yarmouth, the following conclusions of the Committee of General Purposes :—

‘That in order to enable the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia to proceed constitutionally in this matter, it will be necessary that the Chapter pass a resolution signifying their allegiance to the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia, and to have the following Declaration signed by all the members of the Chapter who concur in the movement :’—

DECLARATION.

‘This is to certify, that we, the late members of Union Royal Arch

Chapter, No. 108, R. S., do hereby agree to support and maintain the Constitution, Laws and Edicts of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia while holding membership in a Chapter under its jurisdiction.' "

Also the following, viz :—

"The Grand Secretary was instructed to communicate with the Grand Chapter of Canada in reference to the removal from the Province of their Representative at this Grand Chapter."

Canada for 1874 receives a favorable notice in the Correspondence report, by Comp. James Gossip. Under the head of "Kansas," he says :—

"We still maintain our previously asserted opinions that suspension from a Blue Lodge *should not* necessarily entail a similar punishment in the Chapter *without due trial and conviction by the Chapter*, and all the argument we have heard to the contrary appears to us to be merely special pleading, and has not in the least shaken our convictions on the subject. We must not be thought as inclined to screen any Companion from punishment justly due for his Masonic offences, but we do say that if the Constitution and Laws of Capitular Masonry make him answerable to its provisions, by that standard must he *as a Royal Arch Mason* be governed and judged. We admit of course that Symbolic Masonry is the foundation of the whole, but we have heard of foundations some of the component parts of which had been proved very unfit to bear the weight of a substantial superstructure, and besides on this Continent Capitular Masonry is in no way supposed to be under the control of Grand Lodge.

Do away with Grand Chapters and their Constitutions and Laws, and tack us on to Grand Lodge, and make Capitular Masonry subject to its enactments, and we will then be in a position to agree that suspension from a Lodge takes like effect in the Chapter."

On this subject we agree with Comp. Gossip, but we must warn him that he is likely to have his hands full in arguing this question with our *confreres* over the line, as nearly all hold the opposite view. In fact, we were a little surprised at his temerity in challenging this encounter. However, he is in for it now, and we can only say, "Go in, Comp. Gossip, and if you want any assistance let us know, and you will find us on hand."

We are glad to learn that Union Chapter, at Yarmouth, has declared its allegiance to the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia.

OHIO.

We have the proceedings of this Grand Chapter for 1874 and 1875.

In 1874, Comp. J. Kelly O'Neill, G. H. P., granted a dispensation authorizing a Chapter to hold special convocations for work at another town to that in which the Chapter was located, although he regards such a course as of doubtful propriety. The Grand Chapter sustained his action by the adoption of the report of the Committee on Charters, one clause of which is as follows:—

“Your committee, however, are of the opinion that this Chapter should not recognize but one point as the *situs* of any Subordinate Chapter, and that in this instance the same is St. Clairsville; but they know of no reason why it is not competent for any Chapter to actually convene, at any point within the jurisdiction, in a proper hall provided for that purpose, so that the record shows its convocation to be held at its charter *situs*.”

We are of opinion that this course is of more than doubtful propriety, and that it should not be allowed; and certainly the official record of the convocation should be *truthful* and should not show the meeting as held at its charter *situs*, when, in fact, it was not held there.

The craft in Ohio have enjoyed the blessings of substantial peace, and have steadily progressed with the erection of our mystic temple.

One decision is worthy of note, and should be remembered by all:—

“To bring an offence within the jurisdiction of a Chapter, it is not necessary that it should be alleged to have been committed against a R. A. Mason. It is sufficient if the matter charged is immoral, dishonest or unmasonic.”

A notice of the death of Comp. Harris, was presented by our Grand Representative, Comp. C. A. Woodward, and ordered to be spread upon the minutes.

The report on Correspondence is by Comp. S. M. Sullivan, and is very well written. Our proceedings for 1873 are kindly noticed.

1875.

The G. H. P. reports prosperity and harmony among the subordinates during the past year. He felt himself compelled to take action in one case where a companion had been sentenced to imprisonment for embezzlement, but no complaint or charges had been made against him in his Chapter. He ordered the Chapter to proceed, but this not being done, he suspended the High Priest. Afterwards, finding that the H. P. was not in fault, he restored him, and the Chapter has since tried and expelled the offending companion. In another case, he directed proceedings to be taken against a Past High Priest, for habitual drunkenness.

Comp. O'Neill deserves credit in thus preserving the purity of our membership, and if more examples were made it would be all the better for our fraternity.

The following was adopted :—

“RESOLVED, That no subordinate chapter, in this Grand Chapter jurisdiction, shall be permitted to hold their stated meetings, or confer any of the chapter degrees in any hall or room occupied by any other organization or secret order not Masonic.”

Also, that it is not competent to expel a companion for non-payment of dues, or any other cause, without due trial.

Comp. Buechner has an excellent report on Correspondence, in which Canada for 1874 is noticed. He believes in “objections,” and quotes a case, where he, as a medical man, became aware, after ballot, of the immorality of a petitioner. We have answered this case in our remarks on Minnesota, already written.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

Comp. A. T. Smith, G. H. P., opens his address with a feeling reference to the death of two eminent companions, R. S. Bruns, and B. Rush Campbell. He reports peace and prosperity, and pleasant intercourse with foreign jurisdictions. Several Chapters, which have been almost dormant since the war, have re-organized and resumed work. He advises that the back dues of these Chapters be remitted.

He has had the proceedings of foreign jurisdictions gathered

up and bound, making 41 volumes, which have been placed in the library at the Masonic Temple.

Among the Grand Representatives appointed, we find, for Canada, the name of Comp. W. M. Wilson, P. G. Z. Our friends in South Carolina will regret to learn that Comp. Wilson died in January, 1875.

On the subject of uniformity of the work, he says :—

“No subject has attracted more attention, or received more thought during the past year, than this of rendering the ritual throughout the jurisdiction uniform. In obedience to the resolution of the Grand Chapter at its last Convocation, and in pursuance of my own settled conviction, I issued a call, on the 29th May last, to the High Priests and Companions for all the written copies of the work which had crept into their hands. To this call but few responded, and on the 7th of September last, I issued a second and more peremptory communication, citing attention to the imperative nature of the resolutions adopted. To this latter demand, there has been quite a general response, and I have been astonished myself at the magnitude of the evil, although I had had reason to believe it wide-spread.

This, however, was but part of the work contemplated, and the next question for serious deliberation was the preparation of the “authorized work in hieroglyphics,” to be issued to the Subordinates. This matter, however, involved two considerations; *first*, whether the issuing of any such authorized work was lawful, and, *second*, whether any system of hieroglyphics could be devised by us which would be a safe repository for the secrets of Freemasonry, and at the same time not so intricate as to be practically useless to the Companions. After careful thought, both queries were emphatically decided in the negative.

To my own mind, the subject admits of little question and no doubt. Starting out with the proposition that no system of hieroglyphics has ever been, or can be, devised by man, which cannot also be unravelled by man, I am brought face to face with the solemn obligations of the O. B., which we all remember, and around which I can see no road of escape. If it be answered that such a system can be devised as would be practically, and to all intents and purposes, safe, because so contrived as to render the labor of deciphering too great for the result to be obtained, I reply, that the principle is there still the same, but that even granting the truth of the answer, the end desired fails of being accomplished, because the very difficulty makes it almost, if not entirely, useless to those whom it was intended to benefit. Besides which, if the Grand Chapter ‘authorizes’ any system of hieroglyphics, the floodgate is removed, and the Companions,

finding that the higher authority has seen fit to avoid the plain and evident meaning of the law, and issue in writing its work, feels relieved from any moral obligation in the matter, and the result will be a multiplication of writings in one cipher and another, until finally we return to the identical difficulty which we are now eradicating, but with the loss of the vantage ground which we now occupy. No ; when once we commence to quibble with the law and with our conscience, we enter upon a tortuous path, from which there is no return. The difficulties to be overcome are, without doubt, great, but not so great as to require us to swerve in any manner from the strict path of duty.

But, besides, experience has, I think, proved, that where aids are liberally furnished in the shape of rituals, monitors, etc., the disposition to learn the work thoroughly, so as to be able to exemplify it without the aid of a book, becomes less and less. Resting upon these artificial props, (and how much more if they be authorized and recognized by the Grand Chapter,) the officers never do learn their work, and we exchange a little more exactness to set phrases, for that freedom and impressiveness in the conferring the degrees, which can alone be had where all engaged know thoroughly the parts belonging to their respective stations.

For these reasons the Grand Council has been unable to issue any system of hieroglyphics, and the matter is thus laid before you for sober thought, trusting that due reflection will lead you to the same conclusion to which they have arrived.

The question then returns, if this plan be not adopted, in what manner shall uniformity in the work be attained ? Before offering any suggestions, in answer to this query, I would say, that this matter of perfect uniformity in the work has always seemed to me a chimera, which, while often sought, could never be realized. I care not what may be the means adopted, whether by ritual, by lecturer, or by book, so long as men's minds differ, and God gives one man eloquence and intellect which he denies to another, so long will there exist differences in the minor details of the ritual and in the various lectures. But if the work in its main features be preserved intact, if in all matters of importance uniformity is maintained, we obtain, in my opinion, all that is absolutely necessary, and, in fact and in truth, all that is really possible.

On the other hand, it is requisite that some method should be devised and adopted of instructing the Companions in the proper ritual, and some standard established to which we can turn for correct information. I have thought over this matter, and the most feasible plan which suggests itself to me is the following :—

We now have in the Grand Chapter, already appointed, custodians of the work, whose duty it is to see that the ritual is kept pure and uniform.

Now it might be made the duty of these custodians to meet regularly once a year, say upon the day preceeding the Annual Convocation, and revise this work among themselves, and at some convenient time during the session of the Grand Chapter, through their Chairman, or otherwise, go over the entire work in the presence of the Grand Chapter. During such exemplification questions might be asked and answered, and the result, it seems to me, could not fail to be most instructive to all present. During the interval between the Annual Convocations, these custodians, selected as they are from different sections of the State, would be in reach of the Craft, and could be applied to at any time for information, which it would be the right of the Subordinate Chapter to ask, and the duty of the custodians to impart. Or, arrangements might be made by any Chapter specially desiring instruction, to invite one of the custodians to visit them at some convenient season, they defraying his expenses. Or, should it prove impracticable for the custodians themselves to visit, they might select and appoint some suitable Companion, who would be willing, and able so to command his time as to respond to the calls made upon him. In all such cases the expense of the visit should be, of course, borne by the Chapter desiring the information. By this plan all the Subordinate Chapters, through their Representatives, will be instructed in the work once a year, while during the interval any of them desiring information can procure it upon due application."

Comp. Smythe decided :—

"A simple objection to a candidate who has been duly balloted for and elected, is not sufficient of itself to stop his advancement, unless the Companion so objecting shall state his reasons therefor, which shall be then passed upon and deemed sufficient by his Chapter."

The Grand Chapter ordered that

"So much of the address as relates to the uniformity of the work, be referred to a Special Committee of three, who will report to the next Convocation of the Grand Chapter."

Our Proceedings do not appear to have been received.

VERMONT.

Comp. John W. Clark, G. H. P., says :—

"No question of jurisprudence has been propounded to me except such as were referable to the constitution for plain answer.

It is with pleasure that I am able to state that during my official term, no complaint for unmasonic conduct has been made to me. This is an index to the peace and harmony which prevails within our jurisdiction."

Also :—

"Let us, Companions, make the virtues of our Order appear in acts, not in professions and forms. May we not show in actions that Masonry is a system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols? Our daily walk in life must be influenced by the principles inculcated by the institution of Masonry. A mere knowledge of the principle will avail little, and association will not lessen or reduce in any measure our individual responsibility. It is a goodly thing to have a knowledge of our beautiful ritual, that we may impart to others therein that knowledge which they have a right to expect, but if the truths and principles inculcated by the teaching of our Order do not chalk the way of our feet to bring them parallel with our professions, then we have labored in vain, and spent our strength for nought. Let none expect to conceal his individuality from the inspector of our work, but let each be ready on the sixth hour of the sixth day of the week, to bring up his own work, while all are ready to lend a hand and to be a brother keeper."

The Constitution was amended so as to make Past Grand Secretaries permanent members of the Grand Chapter.

Comp. J. Monroe Poland, presented a concise report on Correspondence, in which our proceedings for 1874 are noticed.

STATISTICS.

The following table and remarks are copied from the report of Comp. Drummond, the chairman of Foreign Correspondence of the Grand Chapter of Maine. The information thus conveyed will be found exceedingly useful to all who take an interest in the progress and present numerical condition of the Capitular branch of Free Masonry :—

"We give our usual table of statistics. The Grand Secretaries are generally giving us the statistics of their respective Grand Chapters, though we find none in the Pennsylvania Proceedings.

GRAND CHAPTERS.	No. of Subordinates.	Ditto making Returns.	Members.	Exaltations.	Admissions & Restorations.	Dimissions.	Expulsions.	Suspensions.	Sus. for non- pay't dues.	Deaths.	Rejections.
Alabama	57	38	1,731	82	42	77	1	1	197	23	6
Arkansas.....	68	44	1,442	95	12	58	3	4	71	23	...
California.....	44	44	2,475	263	37	74	11	0	30	34	32
Canada	61	61	2,774	211	28	48	...	..	20	24	...
Colorado	5	5	282	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Connecticut* ..	33	33	3,952	216	3	65	0	1	74	84	...
Delaware	6	6	307	16	2	5	0	3	0	3	...
Dist. Columbia	8	8	1,099	102	9	15	2	0	75	13	3
Florida	18	10	288	40	5	15	1	0	13	6	1
Georgia.....	49	44	1,952	144	29	48	10	¶61	..	25	6
Illinois.....	155	145	9,823	762	128	355	22	¶206	..	355	..
Indiana	88	83	4,567	441	68	122	24	9	44	49	...
Iowa.....	75	73	3,587	470	48	147	1	26	30	23	..
Kansas.....	26	25	912	69	20	39	2	1	32	8	10
Kentucky	105	93	3,856	272	54	144	10	¶110	...	57	29
Louisiana	25	25	1,618	96	27	23	1	2	32	43	2
Maine	38	38	3,922	294	13	60	1	0	33	46	26
Maryland.....	13	13	1,291	99	8	29	5	26	0	11	0
Massachusetts..	65	65	8,585	670	...	155	0	6	35	90	..
Michigan	91	91	7,327	584	90	161	6	¶91	..	51	...
Minnesota	30	30	1,471	201	15	28	1	5	20	6	...
Mississippi	80	77	2,462	182	101	133	4	7	245	54	...
Missouri.....	84	76	4,104	412	90	125	3	¶31	..	70	41
Nebraska.....	11	11	569	70	54	22	1	7	0	4	0
NewHampsh're	18	18	2,023	119	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
New Jersey	33	33	2,833	297	11	57	1	¶47	..	31	...
New York	192	190	18,730	1,428	235	336	7	2	743	176	162
North Carolina	17	12	557	19	16	11	1	5	0	7	...
Nova Scotia....	6	6	250	44	6	11	0	0	0	2	...
Ohio.....	132	132	8,298	603	209	210	1	17	225	73	...
Oregon	9	9	264	57	3	8	1	0	1	2	1
Pennsylvania†	97	97	10,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rhode Island ..	10	10	1,609	74	2	3	2	0	0	10	3
South Carolina	30	30	938	143	16	18	5	0	39	29	...
Tennessee.....	96	95	4,010	207	44	173	5	¶27	...	58	...
Texas	107	97	3,958	275	166	213	10	¶169	...	74	...
Vermont	25	24	1,752	112	3	39	0	6	0	24	..
Virginia	37	31	1,627	106	16	42	5	¶47	...	16	...
West Virginia,	12	11	451	67	...	8	...	...	...	...	...
Wisconsin	47	47	2,846	231	90	90	0	0	24	20	33
	2,103	1,982	130,554	9,573	1700	3167	148	917	1973	1623	355

* 199 "not accounted for." ¶ Including suspensions for non-payment of dues.

† From address of Grand High Priest.

A comparison of statistics, with those of last year, shows an increase of membership of about 5,500, a decrease of Exaltations of nearly 1,000, an increase of Admissions and Restorations of about 200, an increase of Dimissions of about 200, an increase of Expulsions and Suspensions of about 600 (nearly all of which

is in the suspensions for non-payment of dues) and an increase in the Deaths of about 200.

If it was practicable to distinguish the dimissions for forming new Chapters from the other dimissions, our statistics would be much more accurate in that respect, which is one of very great interest. As it is now, those who demit and become charter members of new Chapters, are not reckoned in the admissions, and the result is that every year the dimissions apparently largely exceed the admissions, while in fact the former may not exceed the latter at all. We therefore suggest to Grand Secretaries to put the number of charter members, who take demits from other Chapters, in the column of "admissions" to such Chapters, in the same manner as if they had joined an old Chapter."

CONCLUSION.

The Proceedings of the following Grand Chapters have not reached our hands at the time of closing this Report, viz: — Alabama, Arkansas, California, Florida, Nebraska, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Most of these were reviewed in our report of last year; Oregon is now two years behind, while from West Virginia, we have not heard since 1871.

It will be seen from the foregoing synopsis, that although numerous questions are being discussed in the Masonic world, and differences of opinion, as to minor points, exist, these matters are treated in all kindness and friendliness; and the beneficent teachings of our beloved Fraternity are constantly borne in mind, and the cardinal precepts by which we profess to be guided, are daily exerting a more powerful influence.

So may it be forever! And may each individual Companion so act as becomes a true and faithful craftsman; and may each and all of us do our utmost to keep the Sacred Fire of our Altars pure and brilliant—that by our works we may be known, and that with undiminished lustre through ages yet unborn, in deeds of charity and mercy may shine forth the LIGHT of our glorious Order.

“ It never shall go out,
'Twas shadowed in creations glorious light,
It flashed in the bright cherub's flaming sword,
It glowed in the Red Bush on Horeb's Mount,
It gleamed in stately column on the horde

Of Pilgrims hast'ning on,
From dreary Egypt gone ;
It goes out never.

For they are building on,
Level, and Square, and Chisel yet are found
Sharpened and bright for use, while stone by stone,
Changed from rough Ashlar to the polished shaft
Rises unheard to God and to Saint John,
No sound of human falls,
While thro' the world's wide halls,
The house is building.

It never shall go out ;
Its rays came down in sweet acknowledgment
Of Builder's work, when Hiram, King of Tyre,
Solomon, and the Widow's Son, and thousands more,
In the new Temple felt the hallowed fire—
To-day such friends have met,
Such fire gleams o'er them yet,
It goes out never."

All which is fraternally submitted,

HENRY ROBERTSON,

Chairman.

Collingwood, Ont.,

July 3rd, 1876.

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